

Kuwait to give citizenship to bedouns

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait agreed Wednesday to open up the possibility of granting citizenship to some of the 120,000 stateless Arabs living on its territory, the official KUNA news agency said. The government said it would give the stateless people, known as bedouns, up to a year to settle their legal status after which they would be subjected to legal sanctions. "Certain cases that would merit Kuwaiti nationality will be taken into consideration," Abdul Aziz Dakhil, minister for the national plan, said after a special government meeting on the issue, the agency reported. "The government has taken a number of measures to facilitate a change in the legal status of those who want it and to help them live and work in the country legally," he added. Earlier this month, the daily Al Siyassiyeh newspaper suggested that up to 20,000 bedoun could be naturalised under the planned changes. Kuwait has an official population of 1.4 million, including 620,000 Kuwaitis and 120,000 bedouns.

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Prince Abdullah meets Malaysian official

KUALA LUMPUR (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah on Wednesday met with the acting Malaysian minister of defence, Prince Abdullah and the Malaysian official discussed Jordanian-Malaysian cooperation in various fields, especially in military cooperation and exchange of expertise. The meeting was attended by Jordanian Ambassador to Malaysia Lu'ay Khashman. On Tuesday evening, Prince Abdullah and Her Royal Highness Princess Rania attended a dinner held in their honour by Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi.

Zanoun calls for delay in elections

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The leader of the Palestinian parliament in exile proposed on Wednesday delaying the Palestinian elections set for January. Salim Al Zanoun, the acting speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), spoke to reporters after 42 members of the council living in the Palestinian territories held a meeting in Ramallah. Mr. Zanoun said they would meet again in the Gaza Strip Saturday with ministers from the Palestinian National Authority to consider the main points in the electoral law and suggest amendments. "We will ask the Palestinian cabinet for an eventual delay of the Palestinian elections," scheduled for Jan. 20, Mr. Zanoun said, without explaining why they were seeking the delay. Approval of the electoral law has already been delayed several times because of internal disputes among the Palestinian leadership.

'Israelis, Iran target PNA officials'

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Israeli right-wing extremists and Iranian agents are both planning to assassinate senior officials, officials of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the secretary-general of the authority, Tayeh Abdul Rahim, said Wednesday. "Our security services have information on plans by Israeli right-wing extremists and Iranian agents to assassinate leaders of the Palestinian Authority," Mr. Abdul Rahim told the Palestinian daily Al Hayat Al Jadida. Mr. Abdul Rahim also said that Palestinian security services had warned Israeli officials of assassination plots against Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, gunned down Nov. 4 by a right-wing Jewish fanatic. "The Israelis were surprised, but they refused to believe the existence of a secret organisation" targeting its leaders, Mr. Abdul Rahim said without providing further details.

Palestinian shot dead in Nablus field

NABLUS (AFP) — Three gunmen shot dead a Palestinian man on Wednesday and left his body riddled with 30 bullets in a field on the outskirts of this West Bank town, witnesses said. Sabi Aysheh, 40, was declared dead on arrival at hospital after witnesses heard the shots and went to his aid. His body was found about four kilometres from his home in the old district of Nablus. The gunmen were dressed in civilian clothes and the motive for the killing was not yet known, but police were investigating. Aysheh, who was married with children, had served a term in an Israeli prison for killing suspected Israeli collaborators, the witnesses added.

Israeli warplanes attack S. Lebanon

Peres weighs options amid U.S. efforts with all parties to defuse rising tension

RASHAYA (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes on Wednesday blasted suspected guerrilla targets in South Lebanon with missiles, a day after resistance fighters rocketed north Israel, police said. The planes swooped low over the 'Ain Tineh region, a Hizbollah stronghold in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, and fired six missiles in three separate sorties, police said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Earlier, an Israeli helicopter fired a missile at the same area but it failed to explode. Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Wednesday met army chiefs to examine the options for a retaliation to Hizbollah's attacks that left eight people wounded. As they met, thousands of Hizbollah supporters attended the funeral in South Lebanon of Saad Harb, a senior Hizbollah chief who died Tuesday when his booby-trapped car exploded. Hizbollah blamed it on Israel.

As the funeral procession of around 5,000 people

wound its way through Jibsheet, Israeli warplanes buzzed the region and Israeli artillery pounded suspected guerrilla positions around the village.

The mourners, led by Hizbollah officials, deputies and Muslim clerics, vowed revenge, crying "Death to Israel" and the United States, and "War, war until victory."

Israeli warplanes and helicopter gunships kept a close watch over South Lebanon throughout the day to prevent Katyusha rocket attacks. But a roadside bomb exploded inside Israel's "security zone" and wounded an Israeli-allied militiaman. The attack took place in Marjayoun, headquarters of the Israeli army and its South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

A second bomb was found at the same spot and defused. In Beirut, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said that Israeli military action to quell Hizbollah was doomed to fail and charged that the Jewish state alone "must assume the

responsibility for the flare-up in the south."

"Military solutions will fail. Military solutions belong to the past," Mr. Hariri said, adding that Lebanon wanted peace and security which could only be secured through an Israeli troop withdrawal from South Lebanon.

Hizbollah told the government to file a petition at the U.N. Security Council complaining about Israeli attacks on South Lebanese villages.

"The Lebanese government has to bear its responsibilities and is demanded to raise high its voice on all international forums and to present a complaint to the United Nations Security Council," a Hizbollah top official told a local television. Hizbollah Deputy Secretary General Naeem Qassem was commenting after the Israeli air raids and shelling of South Lebanese villages. An Israeli military commander meanwhile expressed doubt that massive retaliation

(Continued on page 7)

Egyptian elections plagued by violence, fraud charges

CAIRO (AFP) — Four people died and 33 were injured in fighting as Egyptians voted in parliamentary elections on Wednesday amid opposition charges of widespread fraud and the mass arrest of Muslim fundamentalists.

The opposition accused the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) of stuffing the ballot boxes in Cairo and north Egypt while an independent watchdog group reported receiving 500 complaints of election fraud. Police arrested nearly 2,000 supporters of the banned Muslim Brotherhood, the government's main rival in the race with its candidates standing officially as independents, in the days leading up to the vote and during the poll itself.

President Hosni Mubarak's NDP, which has won sweeping majorities since its creation in 1978, was expected to hold at least the two-thirds majority needed to elect the head of state.

Some 21 million Egyptians were registered for the vote, in which 4,040 candidates

from nine parties and the Muslim Brotherhood ran for 444 seats in the People's Assembly. Mr. Mubarak said the high number of candidates showed the "extent of democracy" in Egypt.

But correspondents said the turnout was low in many districts in Cairo and south Egypt. In the 1990 elections, the official turnout was 44 per cent, although independent observers put it between five and 10 per cent.

However, Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif said: "The election went honestly without pressure from the authorities. Participation was very high, showing the civil conscience of the people."

Voting, which ended at 5 p.m. (1600 GMT), was plagued by a string of clashes between rivals at polling stations.

In the worst incident a gun battle between sympathisers of two rival candidates from the same family left one person dead and three people wounded in the southern Sohag province.

Two women died in the Delta village of Baltim after being hit by tear gas during a clash between police and partisans of a Nasserist party candidate who were protesting against vote rigging.

In Cairo, a backer of an independent candidate was stabbed to death by an NDP supporter.

Earlier, police arrested more than 1,100 campaign workers of Muslim Brotherhood late Tuesday in southern Minya province, the authorities said.

At least 50 others were detained in north Egypt after voting began on Wednesday, according to the Brotherhood, which said more than 600 of its workers had been arrested in the final days before the vote.

Brotherhood spokesman Mamoun Al Hodeibi told AFP that the state had targeted his group for arrests "because it knows that we constitute the main political opposition force."

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday attends a meeting with senior officials from various government ministries and departments (Photo by Boghos)

Regent calls for intra-governmental coordination, private-public sector follow-up to MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday voiced pride in Jordanian achievements in economic and monetary areas and said these achievements were attested to in specialised international reports.

At a meeting held at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), with secretaries general of ministries and directors of government departments, Prince Hassan paid tribute to the executive leadership, which, he said, had a major role in preparing successful policies which contributed to the success of economic restructuring.

Prince Hassan said Jordan could obtain a better economic and financial rankings by international organisations not only through drawing up economic restructuring programmes but also through implementing them.

"At the present we should,

more than any other time, work in accordance with the international understanding of sectoral administration instead of excluding sectoral activities to the concept of local administrations," Prince Hassan said.

He urged the directors present at the meeting to focus on comprehensive performance in planning and implementing programmes.

"When talking about developing any sector, for example the investment sector, can the sector be developed by one ministry? Or are we required to activate the roles of other ministries such as those of finance, water and irrigation, public works and housing, labour, education, higher education, health, social security and science and technology and others?" Prince Hassan asked.

Prince Hassan said Jordan was about to enter a stage in which many projects will be launched both by the public

and private sectors.

The Regent said the Amman economic summit, convened Oct. 29-31, has become history now and any talk about it should be focused on the fact that it constituted an important turning point in a continuous mechanism which aims to rehabilitate the economies of the region.

He said the outcome of the summit cannot be evaluated without understanding its goals and historic context and role.

He said the success of the summit is represented mainly in the continuity of its mechanism in rehabilitating regional economies and enhancing political and economic stability.

The summit, he added, also succeeded in creating the main institutions, which were declared at the Casablanca summit a year earlier.

At the practical level, Prince Hassan said, the sum-

mit succeeded in illuminating and coordinating policies and coordinating the efforts of national and regional companies, in addition to giving them the opportunity to discuss regional projects and major national projects.

He added that the summit also succeeded in presenting Jordan as a model capable of adapting to international and regional changes and dealing with them efficiently.

The Crown Prince underlined the importance of cooperation between the public and private sectors and said the summit represented a distinguished example of the real partnership between the two sectors.

Prince Hassan also underlined the importance role of public administration in the comprehensive development process and called for linking training to the real needs of the process.

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. advance unit heads for Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — A 10-strong U.S. military team headed for central Bosnia on Wednesday to prepare for thousands of American troops who start pouring in next month to enforce a peace deal.

A U.S. spokesman in Washington said one of the team's chief duties would be to check out the airport at Tuzla, a Muslim stronghold destined to be a major base for the 60,000-strong peace force, a third of them American.

The survey team will be followed within a week by an "enhancing" force of some 1,400 troops, half of them Americans, to set up logistics and communications for the main contingent which will start moving in a few days after the signing of the peace

agreement in Paris in early December.

The deployment of the force, a crucial element of the peace package agreed in Dayton, Ohio last week, seemed assured after a way was found to enable Russians to serve in a NATO-led force and U.S. President Bill Clinton appeared to be gaining domestic support for sending American troops.

Mr. Clinton is seeking a non-binding expression of support from a sceptical Congress for his policy similar to that given to then President George Bush for the Gulf war force in 1991.

Before leaving on a European trip Mr. Clinton personally asked key members of Congress to support the deployment, assuring them the mission would be "clear, li-

mited and achievable and the risks to our troops will be minimised."

With the arrival of the main body of the heavily-armed peace force still some weeks away, U.N. military officials in Bosnia were on Wednesday considering using force, against the Bosnian Serbs because of repeated interference with freedom of movement between Sarajevo and the Muslim enclave of Gorazde.

"In contravention of their ceasefire obligations the Bosnian Serbs have been delaying and harassing convoys trying to get to Gorazde," said Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Vernon, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo.

"This situation has got more serious in recent days and commander UNPRO-

FOR (U.N. Protection Force) is considering the use of rapid reaction force artillery against Serb positions as a result."

Bosnian Serb forces won a halt to NATO air strikes in October after making a unilateral pledge to provide unhindered freedom of movement for U.N. and relief vehicles and personnel throughout the country.

With NATO poised to take over peacekeeping in Bosnia, the UNPROFOR mission is entering the last few weeks of its 3½ year operation, although many of its personnel will simply change hats and join the new force.

The U.N. Security Council is scheduled to vote to extend UNPROFOR's Bosnian mandate before it expires on Thursday until Jan. 31.

Race for House speakership seems settled, but strong battle is on for post of deputy

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The battle for speakership of the Lower House of Parliament seems to have settled largely in favour of incumbent Sa'd Hayel Srour against Islamist Abdullah Akaileh ahead of the opening of the third session of Parliament on Saturday. But a fierce competition is looming for the post of deputy speakership.

Until Wednesday, only Mr. Srour and Dr. Akaileh were known to have been nominated for the speakership post and the outcome, for many observers, seems to have been settled in favour of Mr. Srour since Islamists and opposition deputies at the 80-member house would not muster more than 25 votes.

Although they know it might be a losing battle for Dr. Akaileh, the Islamic Action Front insists on nominating him. According to sources, however, the front's efforts are mainly directed at lobbying for the

vice-presidency set for which it stands a better chance than the speakership, they said.

Three strong candidates are vying for the vice-presidency. Islamist Abdul Rahim Akour, centrist Abdul Baqi Jammo and leftist Mustafa Shuneikat are the three. There is no indication, it seems, among any of the three, to withdraw from the race which makes it the more difficult to determine to which way scales would tip.

"It is very hard to tell if our candidate will make it or not," said Mohammad Oweideh of the IAF. "But we are determined to go all the way even if we are not sure of his victory."

Another Islamist deputy, Suleiman Sa'ad, said he believed that all blocs in Parliament are lobbying against the IAF. He told the Jordan Times that there were attempts by some deputies to isolate the Islamists within the House's permanent bureau.

"We accept dialogue.

We even said we will withdraw from the race for the speakership if we win the vice-presidency by acclamation," said Mr. Sa'ad. "But it seems everyone is against the front and is working against it."

But the National Action Front (NAF) bloc, led by Al Abd Secretary General Abdul Hadi Majali, said competition was a testimony of democracy.

"This is not a place for begging. We are here to practise democracy," said Mr. Majali. "We insist on nominating Mr. Jammo and we will not go back on it."

"We have a strong and committed coalition of 38 voices," he said. "He will not withdraw. Opposition has the right to a seat but it is democracy and whoever wins wins."

But a deputy who preferred not to be named cast doubts on a unified centrist stand. He said he believed there was a tendency within the House and the govern-

ment towards the election of an opposition deputy for vice-presidency.

"Negotiations are still going on, but the trend is in favour of the presence of a deputy from the opposition to balance things," the deputy said. "It is unlikely that the four centrist blocs will vote for Mr. Jammo."

Leftist sources argue that Mr. Shuneikat has a strong chance since several independents, nationalists and leftists would prefer to see an opposition figure, who is not an Islamist, in the House's permanent bureau.

Mr. Shuneikat himself does not see a reason for withdrawal and said he believes he had good chances. "Every deputy has the right to take part in the elections. There is nothing impossible," he said. "But I'm open for dialogue."

In last year's elections, Mr. Shuneikat withdrew from the vice-presidency race in favour of candidate Akour, who did not win.

This year, one deputy says, Islamists should be voting for him instead of nominating a candidate.

It is yet not clear if any of the three candidates will withdraw, since lobbying will go on until Saturday morning, one deputy said.

His Majesty King Hussein will open the session on Saturday with a speech from the Throne outlining the government's policies.

Following the speech, the Senate will convene under the chairmanship of Ahmad Lawzi and will elect a committee to prepare the reply to the speech. It will also elect members of the Senate's permanent bureau, two assistants and its different committees.

The House will then hold its first session under the chairmanship of the oldest speaker member. Elections for the speakership as well as two vice-presidents and two assistants will take place. The House will also elect various committees.

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U.N. reaffirms support for Palestinians on eve of day of solidarity

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations on Wednesday celebrated the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, and for the first time since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict, amid signs of peace.

At celebrations in Amman, a U.N. official called upon the international community to bolster peace by increasing its assistance to the Palestinian people.

"(We can) feel optimistic about the possibility of solving the long-standing Arab-Israeli conflict, which... (consumes) enormous economic resources that could otherwise have been directed towards achieving economic and social development for ESCWA members," said Dr. Hazem Al Beblawi, U.N. under-secretary general and executive secretary of the U.N.'s Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

"The reconstruction of physical, economic, social and institutional infrastructure... is the starting point for growth and economic development, as the basis for a successful peaceful settlement," he added. "Successful and durable peace can only be achieved if it is comprehensive, just and based on integrated development."

Although the U.N. has been effectively excluded from any role in the ongoing peace process between the Palestinians and Israel, Dr. Beblawi said, "it is not possible to imagine a successful peaceful settlement of the conflict without the problems of the Palestinian refugees in accordance with United Nations resolutions."

According to the United Nations, more than three million of the world's 6.5 million Palestinians still live in refugee camps and in neighbouring Arab states. They are the "most prominent" of the Palestinian tragedy, said

Dr. Beblawi, and the majority "are still living in dire conditions."

Of the remainder of the world's Palestinian population, the U.N. estimates that 800,000 live within Israel and 2.6 million live in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem. Approximately one million of them live in the areas now under self-rule.

ESCWA provides technical advisory services in economic and social fields upon request from member nations. While the U.N. is facing its worst ever financial crisis, Dr. Beblawi said advisory services have been exempted from restrictions placed on the U.N. agencies due to lack of funding. This, he said, has allowed ESCWA to continue its services in the Palestinian self-rule areas in coordination with the concerned Palestinian and U.N. bodies already active in the area.

"We will concentrate on assisting the Palestinian Authority in building its economic and social institutions," Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Omar Al Khatib delivered a statement on behalf of Yasser Arafat, who condemned violence and terrorism and stressed the importance of "protecting the peace process from threats such as the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and the U.S. Congress attempts to move the American embassy to Jerusalem, which sets a dangerous precedent threatening to ruin the peace process."

"It contradicts the stand of the current U.S. government and former administrations and contravenes the declaration of principles which delayed discussing the issue until the final stage and it contravenes all international legitimacy resolutions rejecting the annexation of Jerusalem and considers it an integral part of the occupied Palestinian land."

The International Day of

Solidarity provides the opportunity to focus on the still unresolved question of Palestine and the future of several million Palestinian refugees. This year, it is a poignant reminder that, while peace does seem attainable, the inalienable Palestinian rights to self-determination, national independence, sovereignty have still to be consolidated.

This day, said U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali in a statement from New York to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, symbolises the ongoing responsibility of the United Nations towards the Palestinian people and "its commitment to the promotion of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Of fundamental importance, he said, is the need to eradicate the economic instability and poor living conditions in the Gaza Strip, which could endanger support for the peace process.

In 1994, the U.N. appointed a special coordinator in the occupied territories to facilitate the development of public works projects to create employment, established a system to disburse donor funds efficiently and coordinated training and other assistance for the Palestinian police force.

The U.N. observes the day of solidarity annually on Nov. 29. This date was chosen by the U.N. because of its significance to the history of the Palestinian people. On that day in 1947, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 181, which called for the partition of Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state in Palestine, with Jerusalem as a corpus separatum under a special international regime. Of the two states envisioned in the Partition Resolution, only one, Israel, has come into being.



TECHNICAL EXHIBITION: Prime Minister who opened the exhibition, was familiarised Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Wednesday tours with services offered by the company through an exhibition organised by the Jordanian computer networks (Petra photo)

Cash, clothes draw Egyptians to polls

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's election day turned into a party for the voters on Wednesday as candidates in the legislative polls doled out food, drink, clothes and even cash to win support.

In the Cairo working-class district of Mosky-Abdin, campaign workers turned out at sunrise outside schools being used as polling stations, armed with leaflets, loudspeakers and an array of gifts for voters.

The backers of Mohammed Abdul Khalfia, an independent, offered pens, notebooks and, most importantly, a free breakfast of tea, home-made bread and chocolate. The candidate himself, also president of the national singer company, mingled among voters, passing out bags of the valued commodity.

Meanwhile, his company's buses busily transported voters to the polls. Mr. Khalfia's rival, Talaat Al Qawass, owns a clothes factory, so his backers passed out red T-shirts and baseball caps emblazoned with his name and his assigned campaign symbol, the umbrella.

A hundred of his factory workers stood outside polling stations, cheering his name, banging tambourines and singing campaign chants while

company trucks shipped in voters.

The Islamist candidate, Sheikh Ragab Hamedia, the owner of a string of restaurants in Cairo, passed out hot sandwiches from the back of a rented pick-up truck.

"Umm Azza," meanwhile, handed out up to 15 Egyptian pounds (\$4) to voters to support her candidate, Karima Al Arusi, a former follower of the ruling National Democratic Party who turned independent.

So voters followed the advice of their President Hosni Mubarak, who last month, counselled: "Take the money, but vote for whoever you want."

The liberal Wafd Party hopeful, Mohammed Al Hifnawi, passed out white T-shirts.

"I've eaten the NDP's sandwiches, got a T-shirt from the Wafd, and now I don't know who to vote for because really I don't care about politics," said student Marad Hussein, licking the icing off his lips.

"The main thing is to take advantage of the most candidates because their favours only last one day," laughed his friend, Mohammad Bakir.

Kuwaitis told not to spoil their children

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's government has urged parents to fight teenage delinquency by giving children personal attention rather than costly gifts that spoiled them.

Information Minister Sheikh Sand Nasser Al Sabah delivered the message to members of parliament who blamed the government for not doing enough to fight the spread of drugs and rowdy behaviour among young people.

Deputies said they wanted the Ministry of Information to show more programmes to teach ethics and manners and the Ministry of Education to educate children about the danger of drugs.

"No matter how many cultural and religious programmes are broadcast, that will not eliminate this dangerous phenomenon," Sheikh Saud told parliament.

Sheikh Saud said the ministries had a role in the prevention of social problems but the family had the most important job.

"Are the ministries providing (our) sons with money?" he said. "In our time one did not own a bicycle, and nowadays young people drive around in 25,000 dinar (\$83,000) cars," he added.

"Where is the role of family? ... I ask some people 'where are your children,' and they do not know," he said. Many Kuwaitis spent most of their time at social functions leaving their children in the care of nannies and maids, he said.

MPs accused government ministries of inaction over the spread of narcotics.

Earlier this week gunmen shot and badly wounded a drugs squad police officer outside his house in an incident believed by newspaper commentators to be linked to an arrest he had made.

MPs argued the attack was indirectly caused by a law passed earlier this year that made the death penalty mandatory for drug dealers, raising the stakes in the fight against narcotics.

"We have unwittingly sentenced interior ministry officers to death and I think we should allow judges more freedom," said MP Ahmad Al Khateeb.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. peacekeeping on Golan extended 6 months

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. Security Council on Tuesday extended for six months the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers on the Golan Heights, and repeated its call for an overall peace settlement in the Middle East. In a resolution adopted unanimously, the Security Council renewed until May 31, 1996, the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping force charged since 1974 with monitoring the Israeli and Syrian troops on the disputed territory. Commanded by General Johannes Koster of the Netherlands, the 1,038-strong U.N. force is comprised of 463 soldiers provided by Austria, 216 by Canada, and 359 by Poland.

Black Sea countries meet to improve ties

ANKARA (AFP) — Parliamentary delegations from 11 countries in the Black Sea region met Tuesday for talks to improve political and economic relations among group members. The Black Sea cooperation group was formed in 1992 and includes Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine. The group has set up a secretariat in Istanbul and is preparing to open a bank in Thessalonika, Greece, to support development projects in the region. Armenian Parliament Speaker Babken Arakantsian, who chaired the meeting, said further economic cooperation in the Black Sea region would help resolve local conflicts among members. The biggest dispute in the region is between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ghali gravely concerned about Afghan violence

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali is gravely concerned about the escalation of violence in the Afghan capital Kabul, his spokesman said Tuesday. At least 41 people were killed and more than 144 injured when the Taliban militia's bombed residential areas of Kabul in the city's deadliest air raid Sunday. More than a week of fierce fighting between the warring factions has left both sides in an apparent standoff 15 kilometres from Kabul. Dr. Ghali expressed his "grave concern" at the escalation of fighting in general and at the bombing of the city, spokesman Ahmad Fawzi said. "The secretary general once again appeals to all parties to exercise the maximum restraint, and calls upon them to cooperate with the efforts of the U.N. Special Mission... aimed at achieving an immediate ceasefire and at promoting negotiations among the parties on a transitional mechanism for the transfer of power, to achieve a just and durable settlement acceptable to all Afghans," the spokesman said.

Abu Dhabi court adjourns embezzlement case

DUBAI (R) — An Abu Dhabi court on Wednesday adjourned an appeal by the Iraqi-Canadian convicted of embezzling millions of dollars from the Arab World's main financial institution, a court official said. The next hearing in the case of former Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) official Mahdi Bahr Al Ulum will be on Feb. 28, the official said. Mr. Bahr Al Ulum, 50, was accused of being an accomplice of former AMF Chairman Jawad Hashem who was sentenced to prison in absentia after being convicted of smuggling some \$80 million from the Abu Dhabi-based AMF. Mr. Hashem, also an Iraqi-Canadian, is still at large. An Abu Dhabi criminal court in 1987 sentenced Mr. Bahr Al Ulum, an Iraqi with a Canadian passport, in his absence to 75 years in jail for embezzlement.

Eighteen Kurdish rebels killed in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Eighteen separatist Kurdish rebels have been killed in three clashes with security forces in southeastern Turkey since Tuesday, an official statement said Wednesday. The statement, released by the office of the regional governor of southeast Turkey, said the clashes between the security forces and rebels from the outlawed Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) took place in the provinces of Tunceli, Hakkari and Sirnak. It did not mention any casualties among the security forces. Over 21,000 people, including rebels, government troops and civilians, have been killed in southeastern Turkey since 1984 when the PKK launched an armed campaign to create an independent Kurdish state in the region.

Israel returns body of Palestinian killed 18 years ago

YATTA (AFP) — The Israeli army has returned to his family the body of a Palestinian killed by soldiers 18 years ago in the occupied West Bank, relatives said Wednesday. Ismail Hassan Salem Hossiyeh, a leader of PLO chief Yasser Arafat's main Fatah faction, was buried last Wednesday at Yatta, near the town of Hebron. Some 4,000 people attended the funeral and gun rounds were fired in the air, witnesses said. Hossiyeh's body had been kept in an Israeli mortuary since Hossiyeh was killed in 1977 in clashes with the army. He had been accused of killing 43 Israeli soldiers and Jewish settlers as well as a number of suspected Palestinian collaborators, said the Palestinian news agency JMCC.

Turkey ready to help train Bosnian soldiers

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Turkey is prepared to help train Bosnia's regular army, visiting Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said here Tuesday. "The modalities of the military cooperation will be defined later," she told a news conference, adding: "We also want to help with Bosnia's reconstruction." "During the Islamic conference in Malaysia, Turkey was asked to coordinate the Islamic World's desire to help in the reconstruction of Bosnia," she added, referring to a session of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. "We do not envisage the reconstruction of Bosnia purely in economic terms but also as a means of ensuring the successful implementation of the peace accord."

Bad food raises stink at top Beirut restaurants

By Hisham Haddadin

Beirut

BEIRUT — Lebanese food lovers, who make eating out a national pastime, have been shocked to hear that some of the best known restaurants to spring up since the civil war have been serving them tainted food.

Reports that government inspectors last month caught half-a-dozen top Beirut restaurants and hotels serving or hoarding used or expired food have caused a national scandal.

Inspectors who raided dozens of restaurants, hotels, shops and supermarkets across the country on a consumer-protection drive told Reuters the results were shocking.

"An one five-star Beirut hotel I seized five tonnes of all types of expired food," inspector Nabil Akar said. "You name it: shrimp, turkey, meat, even Evian mineral water that (billionaire prime minister) Rafik Al Hariri drinks, expired since 1993."

The manager of the

hotel's restaurant was detained with managers or owners of three other hotels and two well-known restaurants. All have been charged and face possible fines of up to five million pounds (\$3,115) or three months imprisonment.

Nearly 70 inspectors of the economy ministry's consumer protection office have raided 600 restaurants, hotels, supermarkets, gas stations and shops in the unprecedented drive to stop cheating on prices and quality.

Poor and illiterate people in Lebanon are unable to read self-by labels which are often in English and French.

Beirut newspapers report new busts almost daily, publishing the names of big restaurants or supermarkets involved — and the campaign seems to be paying off.

Economy Minister Yassin Jaber, the mastermind of the raids campaign, says he is determined his drive to protect consumers will succeed.

"People take it for

granted that the food is OK at these top name restaurants," Mr. Jaber told Reuters in an interview.

"But there is negligence and slackness and it is not permissible that someone take lots of money for a meal from you and serves even one item whose quality or expiry date is suspect," Mr. Jaber said.

"Those caught cheating must be punished severely so they don't repeat it," the millionaire U.S.-educated businessman said.

Inspectors say they are relaxed about their work these days, although during the 1975-90 Lebanese war their raids were mostly successful because many shops were under the protection of trigger-happy militiamen who ruled the streets.

"On one raid during the war a shopowner told us he would dig a big hole in the ground and bury us in it if we ever came back," 49-year-old Akar, an inspector for 20 years, said.

Now the inspectors slap summonses on suspected offenders without twitching

an eyelid.

"Sometimes we face problems but we're more relaxed as there is state authority behind us," said Mr. Akar, who issued a summons to a restaurant owned by a parliamentary deputy for serving expired cheese, and to a parking lot owned by another MP for price cheating.

The inspectors' newfound confidence was evident during a raid on four shops and restaurants in Beirut witnessed by Reuters.

"What a morning what rotten luck" a shopowner shouted after three inspectors and three policemen entered his small establishment where almost all the merchandise from potato chips to breakfast cereal was expired.

The second target, a supermarket, passed the test but a newly opened restaurant received a summons that could cost two million pounds (\$1,250) for small amounts of leftover froglets and meat found in his freezer.

"I am giving you this summons so you learn not to serve leftovers to clients," Mr. Akar told the owner.

Mr. Jaber said the raids were just the tip of the iceberg. His goal is to re-establish quality control in Lebanon, he said.

"What we did was raise the awareness of people but what we hope to do is to create a system that works every day," Mr. Jaber said, adding that consumer protection office now receives tips about offenders from citizens on telephone hot lines.

"We caught so many offenders because we caught them unaware. I'm sure in the future we will catch less out of being scared they will stop dealing in these products... they know we can strike anytime," the minister said.

"The other thing we have to do is to stop these (expired) products from coming into the country in the first place... you have to go after the snake's head: The importers," he added.

JORDAN TELEVISION

773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
13:30 This — The Happy Professor
13:30 — Firearm Sam
13:35 — My Secret Identity
14:10 — The New Leave It to Beaver
14:15 — White Heat
14:30 — Gillette World Sport Special
17:00 — Sophie Et Virginie
17:30 — Varieties — C'est Votre Vie
19:00 — News in French
19:15 — Magazine — Archimede
19:30 — News Headlines
19:35 — Carol and Company
20:00 — The Album Show
20:30 — The New Varieties
22:00 — News in English
22:25 — Feature film: "The Sea World"
23:59 — The Thom Birds

PRAYER TIMES

06:59 — Fajr
06:59 — Sunrise
11:24 — Dhuhr
14:12 — Asr
16:36 — Maghreb
17:57 — Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assistance of God Church, Tel. 632785.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions are expected to prevail during the weekend with winds southeasterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and seas choppy.

WEATHER

Min./Max. temp. 4/16
Aqaba 11/23

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts 2/18
Jordan Valley 11/23

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 15 Aqaba 22, Humidity
readings: Amman 32 per cent,
Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 736011
Dr. Wasan Hazin 779474
Dr. Fakhri Bihbeh 663412
Dr. Bilal Al Sayid 690220
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salaku pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 640495
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammed Al Khalil 273099
Al Quda pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Haddad 983550
Khalil pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 611111
Civil Defence Inspectorate 630341
Raided 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 634932
Traffic Police 636390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 635800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 697467
Complaints 677111
Complaints 677111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 0613200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

AKHIL MATERNITY, J. Amn.

Jabal Amman Maternity 642442
Mallus, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848945
Al-Musabir Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mutajir 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Asraf 77511126
Army, Marika 8911115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 868199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)980732
Al-Haram Modern Hospital (09)999090
The Sita Hospital (09)900560
Al-Haram Modern Hospital (09)999090
Princess Basmah Hospital (03)273555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Al-Najaf Hospital (02)247100
AQAHA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)341111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:30 Senaa (RJ)
07:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
09:30 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:30 New Delhi (add) (RJ)
10:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:05 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:15 Athens, Larissa (RJ)
11:35 Rome (RJ)
12:00 Paris (RJ)
12:05 London (RJ)
20:10 Cairo (RJ)
20:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:35 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
23:59 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
02:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 Aqaba (RJ)
09:00 Moscow (RJ)
09:10 New Delhi (add) (RJ)
10:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:05 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:15 Athens, Larissa (RJ)
11:35 Rome (RJ)
12:00 Paris (RJ)
12:05 London (RJ)
20:10 Cairo (RJ)
20:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:35 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
23:59 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
02:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:59 Beirut, London (BA)
07:30 Jeddah (RJ)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Muscat (GF)
13:30 Algiers (AH)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 120/80
Carrot 200/50
Cauliflower 140/100
Cucumbers (large) 150/100
Cucumbers (small) 130/100
Eggplant 200/120
Garlic 700/500
Grape 220/150
Grape Fruit 220/150
Lemon 240/150
Marrow (large) 120/80
Marrow (small) 220/120
Olives (green) 80/50
Onion (green) 250/150
Onion (dry) 240/140
Orange 420/300
Pepper (hot) 220/120
Pepper (sweet) 200/120
Potato 260/120
Radish 120/80
Spinach 160/100
Spring Beans 650/400
Tangerine 270/200
Tomato 250/140

Romania marks national day, pledges further cooperation with Kingdom

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Romania is determined to do its utmost to extend and further diversify the relations of friendship and cooperation with Jordan, Romania's Ambassador Anton Pascale said on the eve of Romania's national day, Dec. 1.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Mr. Pascale reviewed the traditional brotherly relations between the two states and delved into the history of Romania before it became a modern state in Dec. 1, 1918, and after.

The date holds particular importance because, with Transylvania's return to the fold of the country and uniting with the rest of Romania, "the long-awaited dream of achieving the unity of all Romanians in a single national state became true and the modern Romania was set up."

While talking about the achievements in the years after the overthrow of the totalitarian communist regime of Nicolae Ceausescu, the ambassador also stressed the accomplishments in the political field, highlighting the ties with

the Arab World. "An active and constant supporter of the Middle East peace process, Romania, in 1995 too, furthering its traditional friendship and cooperation with the Arab World, registered new achievements in its relationship with the countries of the region, like Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt," said Mr. Pascale.

Mutual high-level visits were effected, seeing Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu arrive in the Kingdom at the invitation of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, in June 1995, and a Jordanian parliamentary delegation headed by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi participate in the 94th session of the Interparliamentary Union, held in Bucharest, in October this year, according to Ambassador Pascale.

"The historical event of both regional and world importance, which was the Amman MENA (Middle East and North Africa) economic summit, was attended by a Romanian government delegation led by Minister of Trade Petru Crisan who was accompanied by five representatives

from the state and private sectors," said the ambassador.

As a result, he added, Romanian companies are examining the possibility of taking part in the implementation of new economic projects in Jordan, as presented to the economic summit.

It would not be a first timer, as Romania has a long tradition of executing various industrial projects in the Kingdom, famous being the electrification works and the oil refinery in Zarqa, mentioned Mr. Pascale, adding that at the moment, the Romanian company Industrial Export is carrying out a turn-key project in Aqaba for oil storage tanks and a partner in the construction of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station.

The cultural relations between Jordan and Romania were also mentioned by Ambassador Pascale who said that they are "steadily developing on the basis of the programme of cultural exchange concluded earlier this year, along with the agreement on trade and on cooperation in the field of health and medical science."

Concluding his speech, Mr. Pascale quoted the message sent to His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of his 60th birthday anniversary by Romanian President Ion Iliescu who expressed "deep admiration and respect for His Majesty's prodigious activity aimed at securing the development of the Kingdom in the political, economic and cultural fields."

"Under His Majesty's direct guidance and leadership, the Kingdom has reached an advanced stage on the path of building up a democratic society based on the rule of law, protection of freedoms and human rights," said the message.

"The conclusion of Jordan's treaty with Israel, a historical event, once again proved King Hussein's great courage and political wisdom. It reflected his strong will to bring about stability to the Middle East and a better future for generations to come and amongst peoples of the area as a whole," further said the message.

Queen participates in forum on rights of children

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday joined 25 First Ladies and delegations from 55 countries at the International Forum on the Rights of the Child organized by La Fondation Pour L'Enfance (The Foundation for Childhood), according to a Royal Court statement.

The one-day forum, which commemorated the 50th anniversary of the U.N., the U.N. Year of Tolerance and the sixth anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, presented "an ideal opportunity to remind the international community of its commitments to children," the statement said.

Queen Noor, who headed a Jordanian delegation of child specialists including Members of Parliament Leila Sharaf and Dr. Fawzi Tu'eimeh, the Queen's Advisor in Amman and Dr. Sima Babous of UNICEF, presented the theme of "the family as a safety net for the child and

the nation." According to the statement, the Queen emphasized the importance of the Arab family, which "continues to provide identity, social, financial security and protection" and has resulted in a more cohesive and stable society, "free of the social ills that plague other parts of the world."

She noted, however, that the family in the Middle East is under great pressure because of the "intense political, economic and social transitions" and called for preserving and enhancing the family's strengths and role as well as ensuring its ability to "respond to changing conditions in our rapidly changing world," the statement said.

The Queen described the region's strong cohesive family as "an anchor and a foundation" and expressed her hope that it will evolve into the "fundamental building block for peaceful, prosperous and stable societies," according to the statement.

Queen inaugurates Jerash association

Queen Noor concluded her two-day visit to Paris by inaugurating Tuesday the Friends of Jerash Association, which will raise funds for "the excavations and works aimed at enhancing the site of Jerash" and will work in close cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, the statement said.

In her remarks, Queen Noor, who is the Honorary President of the Association, said that Jordan and France have enjoyed the benefits of a long tradition of cooperation, particularly in "the fields of antiquities, scholarship and the preservation of monuments in Jordan."

She emphasized Jordan's commitment to the preservation of our region's cultural heritage and to the development of a "sustain-

able momentum for the continued progress of all humankind" adding that "contribute to enriching knowledge about ancient civilisations and enhance the cultural role of Jerash as a living stage for the dozens of Jordanians, Arab and international troupes who perform at the annual Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts, the statement said.

The Queen expressed her hope that the association will enhance the two countries' traditional cooperation by attracting "this wide range of new partners and colleagues from the private sector."

The International Forum on the Rights of the Child is organized with the cooperation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, U.N. Children's Fund and the International Catholic Child Bureau at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, the statement said.

Editor faces new charge, denies intention to slander

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Editor of Al Bilad weekly newspaper Khaled Kassabeh will appear today in the First Instance Court after a new case was filed against him by the prosecutor general.

Mr. Kassabeh told the Jordan Times Wednesday that he received a note from prosecutor general Mohammad Khasabneh asking him to be present in court.

"I have no idea what the case or charges are. The memo only required that I should be present in court Wednesday," Mr. Kassabeh said.

According to Mr. Kassabeh, the prosecutor general transferred the previous case filed by the Lower House of Parliament against the newspaper to the court and a new date is expected to be announced soon.

However, Mr. Kassabeh pointed

out that he had contacted the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'ad Hayel Sour to persuade him to drop the case.

"I have contacted Mr. Sour to apologise and to reassure him that the newspaper was not targeting the House and did not intend to insult the House. And he promised me to contact other Parliament deputies to convince them to drop the case," Mr. Kassabeh said. "I am hoping that the deputies will be convinced and will drop the case so that we, as journalists, will not feel that this case has muzzled the freedom of the press," he added.

During the past two weeks, Mr. Kassabeh, along with cartoonist Usama Hajjaj, were detained twice in two separate cases for "violation of the Press and Publications Law."

On Nov. 12, they were imprisoned on charges of tarnishing the image of Islam and for a sacrilegious cartoon that was published in one of the newspaper's issues

in October. They were freed on bail four days later. A week later, the same journalists were detained on charges of insulting the Lower House of Parliament but released the following day on bail.

Mr. Sour filed a complaint last month after Parliament members expressed anger over a cartoon that was published in the paper. In both cases Mr. Kassabeh said that the newspaper was not targeting the House nor was it its intention to tarnish the image of Islam. According to Mr. Kassabeh, the prosecutor general is still reviewing the Nov. 12 case which was filed by the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, Abdul Majid Thumelbat, for violating the press law which prohibits the printing of any material that involves contempt of religion.

The maximum penalty for the violation of any article of the Press and Publication Law is JD 1,000. The penalty for slandering the Parliament could reach up to three years' imprisonment.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The State Security Court Wednesday ruled its jurisdiction over the case of the six people known as "Islamic Revivalists", accused of sabotage and postponed the case of two Jordanians involved in an attack on a French diplomat known as "Wadi Mujib" because the court did not reach a decision regarding its jurisdiction of the case.

Presiding Judge Hafez Amin told the court that the case of the Islamic Revivalists was within its jurisdiction and ordered the case to proceed as normal.

Speaking on behalf of the defendants' attorneys, Lawyer Kamal Nasser charged that the defendants were interrogated by the Irbid prosecutor general, while also being tried, for a month, by the State Court for charges of belonging to an illegal organisation.

The state prosecutor general denied these allegations and said that the

court had no knowledge of them.

All six defendants pleaded not guilty to Judge Amin who set Dec. 6 as a new date to hear the prosecutor general's witnesses.

The group is charged with illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials, automatic weapons and guns for illicit use, and belonging to an illegal organisation.

In the Wadi Mujib case, the court decided to postpone the case after a long deliberation between the prosecutor general and the defendants' attorneys.

Attorneys Saleh Armouti and Hikmat Rawashdeh contested that there were discrepancies between certain legal matters concerning the charge sheet and the evidence.

Saleh Jaradat and Ahmad Qassem, both 22, are charged with shooting and wounding a French diplomat in Wadi Mujib and plotting to carry out extremist attacks and possessing and manufacturing of illegal arms.

Judge Amin set Dec. 13 to announce

a decision over the court's jurisdiction.

He also set Dec. 6 for hearing the case of Muslim militant Atta Abu Rishieh, 53, accused of slandering against His Majesty King Hussein.

Mr. Abu Rishieh, spokesman for the illegal Hezbi Al Tahrir, was detained on Oct. 15 by authorities, nine days after he was interviewed by the Arabic weekly Al Hiwar in which he allegedly slandered the King.

During the court session, Attorney Armouti contested the court's jurisdiction, claiming that the case should be heard in civil courts because Mr. Abu Rishieh "reflected political thoughts and what he said was based on personal interpretations of Islamic Sharia."

Judge Amin rejected a request to free Mr. Abu Rishieh on bail and set Dec. 6 for a new court session. The defendant had earlier confessed to slandering King Hussein.

Screening the obscene: cinema finds ways around censorship

By Samir Hijawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — All was quiet as the film was being screened. A man and a woman engage in a scene of impending passion. The situation gradually warms up to the company of musical effects.

Then, at the significant point, the censor's scissors intervene. This is inevitably followed by the audience's reaction, an audience composed largely of young men who boo and whistle in disapproval.

The scene in question was from an Italian movie entitled "Night Girl" (Una Donna di Notte).

The location is a third-rate movie theatre in Zarqa, with a schedule of all-day screening of equally third-rate European pornography. According to Jordanian law, all movies imported in the country are subject to censorship and this is conducted through a 15-member board appointed by the Ministry of Information.

A board member, speaking under condition of anonymity, told the Jordan Times that all third-rate movie houses commit regu-

lar violations of the law by screening parts of smuggled and therefore, uncensored films. Mahmoud Awad, a ticket window employee at one of the movie houses says: "I am a married man, but my wife does not know that I work here. All she knows is that I work for a company. I was trained in computer data-entry. But I accepted the job here because I could not find any other job and got fed up of being unemployed."

Firas Yousef, 22 and unemployed, says: "I go to movie theatres every day. I have a lot of free time and I do not know how to fill it."

Firas adds: "I always watch porno films, but the feeling of suspense is incomplete because no sooner does the situation warm up than the scene is cut. Some movie houses do show uncut erotic scenes and that pleases the audience."

"After all," says Firas, "we pay to watch porno scenes, not a karate show."

Asked how he knows whether the show will include uncut porno scenes, Firas replies: "Sometimes the man at the ticket booth

gives customers a signal."

"I can't afford marriage, so the least I can do is watch erotic scenes," says Fadi Salim, 27. But the problem, he adds, is censorship.

According to Mahmoud Awad, the ticket vendor, people aged between 18 and 50 years come to watch these movies. With the minimal legal age for entering these movie premises at 18, Awad notes that nearly 20 per cent of all cinema goers to his movie theatre are under-age.

"We do try to bar them from entering and demand that they produce an ID to prove their age...but it's not always possible. These boys have their ways of getting through."

Awad continues: "Many of them are unemployed but some are employees who come after office hours."

What about the occasional patrolling plainclothes policeman?

An employee at one of the movie houses told the Jordan Times that proprietors and employees are familiar with the civil clothes policemen who visit cinemas.

"We don't show the

obscenity when we spot the police and we also refrain from showing these scenes until we have become familiar with the new faces," he said.

Meanwhile, a group of young children gather in front of a movie theatre where the glass window displays photographs of the current show.

The photographs, which bear the official approval of the Ministry of Information, display the virtually naked bodies of couples.

A responsible government source from the censorship board had this comment to make: "The law which governs our work is obsolete and impotent since it dates back to 1952 and our censorship is restricted by this law. In conducting our work we follow certain criteria set by the law, but what takes place later at the cinema is not of concern to the board because control of movie houses falls under the jurisdiction of the local governors."

According to the same source: "Apart from the defects and the loopholes in the law, the proprietors of movie houses themselves lack decency because the

real problem lies in smuggled pornography which is subsequently screened inside a movie theatre."

And what are the measures taken against violators of the law?

"All the third-rate movie houses violate the law and there are no effective deterrent penalties against them. Violators of regulations are ordered to pay a fine ranging between JD 5 and JD 50 and the board has no authority to order the cinema closed," the source said.

Because a large majority of those working in third-rate movie houses have served prison terms in the past, according to the source, "the cinema business can be better controlled by disallowing the employment of former convicts at movie houses."

But the drastic solution for the problem lies in the enactment of a new legislation which has already been debated by the legislation bureau and now awaits approval by parliament and the council of ministers," the board source said.

The board approves between 250 and 300 films annually, according to the source.



Window display showing erotica at a movie theatre in Zarqa (Photo by Samir Hijawi)

Competition is high and venal. According to an owner of a movie theatre: "Some of them (movie theatres) exchange accusations and at each other and threaten to report each other's violations to the authorities."

Jordan has 39 movie theatres half of which are in

Amman. Only four are rated as first-rate movie theatres and the rest are third-rate cinemas, according to the board's rating.

No accurate figures of cinema-goers exist in Jordan but some estimates put the number at 1.5 million to three million annually, spending JD 3 to JD 4 mil-

lion altogether on entry tickets.

Samir Hijawi was detained by police for five hours Monday for taking the photograph shown in this article.

BAZAARS

* Bazaar held by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature at the Orthodox Club on Thursday and Friday from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.

* Charity bazaar held by the Armenian Relief Society at Ashrafieh on Thursday and Friday (10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.)

FILMS

* "Todos Los Hombres A La Carcel" at Instituto Cervantes, on Thursday at 5.00 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON

* "Eugene Delacroix: The Restless Eyes" (with commentary by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh on Thursday at 5.30 p.m.

* "The Quiet Man" at the American Centre on Thursday at 5.00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Plastic art by Lucy Marto, Janine Saaf, and Tete Wegelius at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Abstract art by Iraqi artist Samira Abdul Wahab at Ab'ad Art Gallery, Mecca Street (until Dec. 2)

* Plastic art by Abdul Raheem Wakid at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (until Dec. 2).

* Annual fall exhibition "Khawater" at the Jordan River Designs, (Tel. 613081/2) until Dec. 1.

* Photographs and paintings by Ann O'Neill and Anne Sears at the British Council (until Dec. 3)

* Works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Art Gallery.

* Works by Dodi Taba'a entitled "Variations Graphiques 93-95" at the French Cultural Centre.

* Sculptures & paintings by Iraqi Artist Ismail Fattah, at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh.

* Metal works by Ammar Khammash at Liwan, off Wadi Saqra Street. Also displaying all kinds of handicrafts. (Tel. 699141).

Burma opposition pulls out of constitutional talks

RANGOON (R) — Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Wednesday her National League for Democracy (NLD) party had pulled out of government-run constitutional talks because they do not represent the will of the people.

"Our intention is always to find the way that is the most beneficial to the people of the country," Nobel Peace laureate Suu Kyi told a news conference at her home that served as her prison during six years of house arrest.

"We find at this point that we cannot in all honour support a National Convention which is not heading for what the people want, which is not in any way desirous of bringing about national reconciliation, multi-party democracy or a constitution that will be acceptable to all the people of our country."

The National Convention, comprising delegates mostly hand-picked by the military government, is meeting to draft guidelines for a new constitution. It has met sporadically since January 1993 and convenes at the whim of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

The NLD has participated in previous sessions, but has repeatedly called for changes to the process.

NLD Secretary General Suu Kyi, who in July was released from house arrest, said last week the convention was undemocratic and threatened to boycott. She also repeated an unanswered call for dialogue between opposition, ethnic groups and the SLORC to restore democracy in Burma.

Delegates from the NLD attended the opening session Tuesday, but withdrew from the talks when they found their demands for change to the convention process had not been met. The NLD and other "elected representatives" make up

about 15 per cent of all delegates to the convention.

National Convention convening committee Chairman Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt said Wednesday the NLD's withdrawal will not affect the convention, which will continue.

He lashed out at Ms. Suu Kyi saying it was only since she was released from house arrest that NLD's dissent had become public.

"We can see that the attitudes opposing the National Convention appeared soon after the restriction order to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was lifted," he said. "By studying what she said about the National Convention since her release it can clearly and obviously be seen that it was intentionally prepared to spoil (it)."

Ms. Suu Kyi said the government reaction could be a threat to her party members. She said "special forces officers" were waiting outside the houses of at least three senior NLD members, including two, Tin Oo and Kyi Maung, who had been released from nearly six years of jail in March.

"But the NLD was not founded because we wanted a nice and cozy niche for ourselves. We knew that there were dangers involved and we were prepared to take them."

When asked if she thought she might be rearrested for her outspoken statements, she said: "Anything is possible."

Ms. Suu Kyi said she hoped the NLD's withdrawal from the talks will show Burma and the world the SLORC's constitutional process is not democratic.

"They can certainly no longer go on pretending that the National Convention is a substitute for dialogue and it is quite clear from what has happened now that there is no freedom of discussion in the National Convention."

Ms. Suu Kyi also called for international recognition

of the fact that the convention process was not democratic hoping it might pressure the SLORC into a dialogue.

When asked what she would suggest to foreign investors who have been flocking to Burma lately, Ms. Suu Kyi said: "I think they jolly well should wait."

Meanwhile Thai police sources said a veteran Burmese dissident journalist was arrested early Wednesday as part of a crackdown to prevent protests in Bangkok against the constitutional meeting currently being held in Burma.

U Ye Gyaung, 75, senior writer of the dissident underground weekly, the New Era journal, was picked up from his house in a pre-dawn raid, police sources and dissidents told Reuters.

Mr. Ye Gyaung's 65-year-old wife was also being detained with him at an undisclosed location, they added.

On Tuesday, Thai police arrested nine Burmese dissidents who had planned to stage a protest in front of the Burmese embassy against what they called a sham National Convention in Rangoon.

Burmese dissidents said Thai police were arresting Burmese opposition figures in Bangkok to prevent them from protesting against the convention.

The crackdown was also being launched ahead of a visit by Burmese military officials to Thailand next month to participate in an Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting and summit.

"For the moment we are living in the state of fear because of the reports that the Thai authorities are beginning their crackdown on the opposition movement in Thailand," said a senior Burmese dissident, who declined to be identified.

Russia planning to bury czar, but has not invited relatives

NEW YORK (AP) — Descendants of the last Russian czar say they haven't been consulted about plans to bury him and his slain family, nor invited to the funeral that could be held as early as February in the former imperial capital of St. Petersburg.

A Russian government commission recommended in September that the remains of Czar Nicholas II be buried with other Romanov rulers on Feb. 25, a Russian Orthodox holiday called forgiveness Sunday on which Russians repent for their sins.

The government and the Russian Orthodox Church will make the final decision. "So far, neither I nor my cousins have been invited," said Prince Nicholas Romanov, the family's oldest living male.

"It would be sad if they forgot that 27 Romanov men and women, young and old, are living around the world," he said Tuesday night at a reception.

Nicholas II abdicated in 1917, and was executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918, along with his family. Bones believed to be

those of Nicholas, his wife Alexandra, three of their five children and four servants were found in 1991 in a pit in Yekaterinburg in the Ural Mountains.

DNA tests confirmed the identities in August, and the following month the Russian government commission recommended the burial.

Remains of two of the czar's children, his hemophiliac heir Alexei and daughter Anastasia, were never found, leading to persistent speculation they survived and escaped.

Prince Romanov said he wants the czar, the zarina, their children and servants buried together.

"They have been lying together for 75 years. Leave them as they are. That is the right thing to do," he said. The czar's doctor and valet, slain with the family, were "the only men who never betrayed him. They should be honoured together with the czar."

Prince Romanov said the funeral "will symbolise that a page of Russian history has finally been turned, a page dripping with blood."

The Russian government wants to bury Nicholas in the Cathedral of Peter and Paul, where all Russian czars have been buried since Peter the Great.

St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak has suggested the family's remains be interred in St. Catherine's chapel in the cathedral annex.

Mr. Sobchak also proposed that the royal remains go by train from Yekaterinburg, with stops in major cities along the route for memorial services.

The burial would be a highly charged event in Russia, where both nationalism and support for the successors to the Communist Party are surging. The Orthodox Church wants a religious ceremony.

Prince Romanov was speaking at a reception hosted by Random House publishers for the launch of historian Robert Massie's new book, *The Romanovs: The Final Chapter*, which details how the remains were found and the dispute between Russian and American experts over their testing and identification.

Ramos thanks Suharto for brokering peace in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Fidel Ramos thanked Indonesian President Suharto Wednesday for helping his government find a peaceful end to the Muslim insurgency in the southern Philippines.

Mr. Ramos cited Mr. Suharto's role as a "prime peacemaker" after the Indonesian leader said his country would support demands by Filipino Muslims for autonomy but would not back an independent Muslim state.

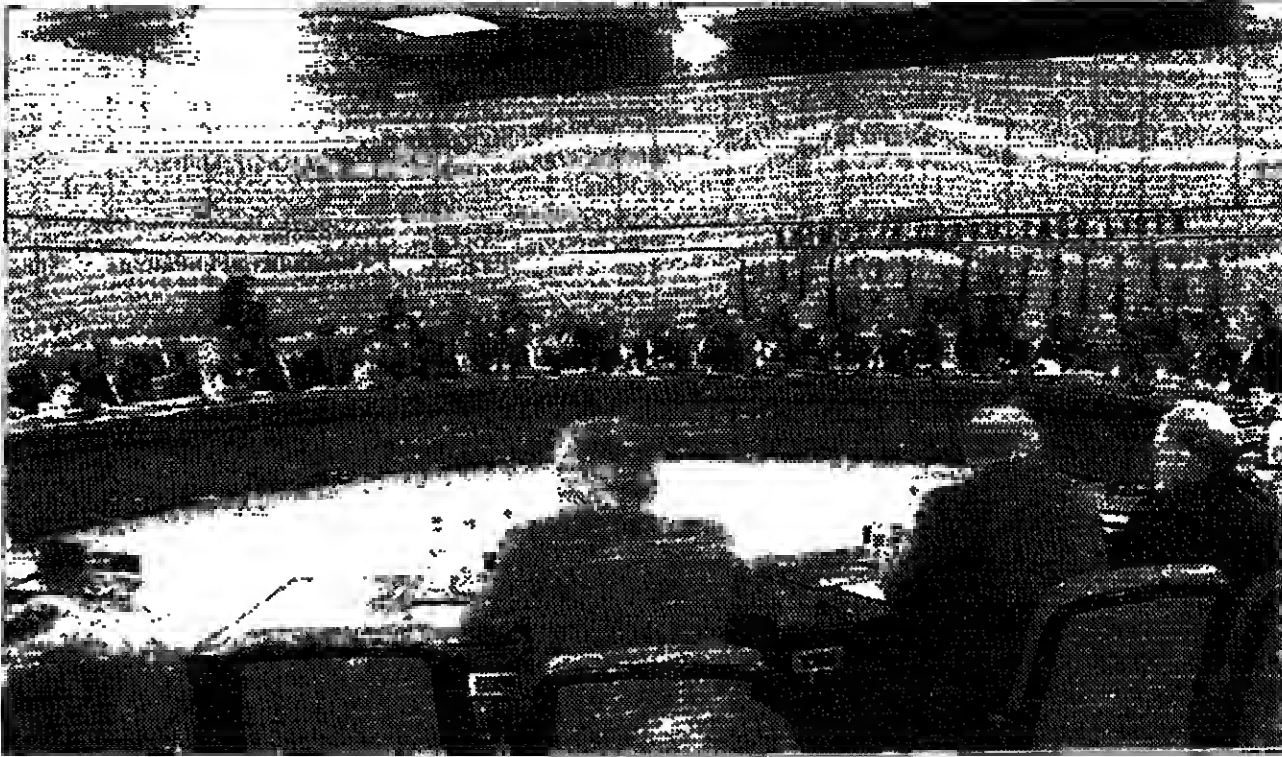
The government and the Moro National Liberation Front, the main rebel faction fighting for Muslim self-rule, are biding their third round of formal talks in Jakarta.

Mr. Ramos said he remains optimistic that the weeklong talks, which began Monday, will succeed despite reports they had been marred by bomb explosions in two southern cities earlier this week. Mr. Ramos said the two bombings were unrelated to the

insurgency.

"I am glad to hear that the negotiation is off to an auspicious start," he said. "I am confident that a forward momentum would be gained as the plenary sessions ensue within the week."

Nur Misuari, chairman of the rebel front, also has said the discussions have made some progress although major disagreements remain.



North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) defence ministers are seated at the conference table at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. During the meeting NATO and Russia agreed on a framework for the operation of a peace force in Bosnia (AFP photo)

NATO ministers meet on enlargement, budget

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — NATO defence ministers met in Brussels Wednesday to review the alliance's nuclear state of readiness, plans to expand into Eastern Europe, and the military details of the ground-breaking peace mission in Bosnia.

France, which is not integrated into the alliance's military structure, was not present at the session which followed a landmark accord Tuesday with Moscow on Russian participation in the 60,000-strong force.

"After all the excitement of yesterday, we are back to the nuts and bolts of defence planning. This is a very routine meeting," said one alliance source.

The meeting will hear a report on the dangers of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the chaotic post-cold war world — an issue which is causing increasing alarm among defence experts.

NATO ministers were also set to review progress on allowing NATO's vast array of military hardware to be used by member countries for non-alliance tasks or for missions in which not all alliance countries wish to take part.

The Combined Joint Task Forces (CJTF) debate was

originally launched to equip NATO countries for peace-keeping tasks or a possible intervention on Europe's frontiers in which the U.S. does not wish to take part.

The debate has made little progress, with the U.S., which provides the vast bulk of NATO assets, demanding a say over how it might be used.

France wants the assets sub-contracted out to another body such as the Western European Union (WEU), the EU's nascent defence wing, with no strings attached.

NATO sources say they are close to a deal but the final outcome could depend on how well the planned peace implementation force in Bosnia goes.

"Bosnia will test cooperation between different armies and the exchange of equipment and assets far better than anything envisaged in all the reports and studies we have examined," one defence minister told Reuters.

Meanwhile in Moscow, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Wednesday Russian cooperation with NATO can counteract the North Atlantic alliance's enlargement plans. He was commenting on the deal to send peacekeeping troops to

Bosnia. "Cooperation is not a green light for NATO enlargement, but an alternative to enlargement," Mr. Kozyrev told Moscow Echo Radio, after agreement was reached in Brussels on Russian participation in a Bosnia Peace Force.

The terms on which Russia will send 1,500 troops to Bosnia, including a consultative committee to keep Moscow fully informed, were thrashed out at talks between alliance defence ministers and their Russian counterpart Pavel Grachev Tuesday.

"We need to say 'yes' to partnership with NATO and 'no' to basty enlargement of NATO, but we must not adopt a policy of burying our heads in the sand, that is, pretending that NATO does not exist," Mr. Kozyrev told the radio.

Mr. Kozyrev said that "through cooperation we will achieve a change in NATO's role, the alliance's functions, and will be able to defend our viewpoint, including on the question of NATO expansion."

President Boris Yeltsin has condemned NATO's plans to expand eastwards to embrace former Communist Bloc countries, warning that it could resur-

rect the cold war split and trigger a new conflict in Europe.

Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Kozyrev as saying it was unrealistic for Moscow to set up a new military bloc with other countries as a counterbalance to NATO enlargement.

"Looking at the map, I do not see who we could form an anti-NATO alliance with," Mr. Kozyrev told a meeting of the Foreign Ministry's External Policy Council.

Referring to the Bosnia peacekeeping force, Mr. Kozyrev said Russia "needs to choose a form of cooperation in the operation which gives us an appropriate and equal place among the participants, so that our voice is heard in determining the framework, tasks and rules of the operation."

The deal to bring Russia into the operation came as NATO's military wing cleared the way for an "enabling force" of between 2,000 and 3,000 troops to arrive in Bosnia early next week.

The force will be charged with setting up the infrastructure needed to enable the main force of 60,000 troops to function.

Clinton backs Anglo-Irish move, critics sceptical

LONDON (R) — An Anglo-Irish initiative to unblock Northern Ireland's peace process won praise from U.S. President Bill Clinton, but local Protestant politicians essential to its success dismissed it on Wednesday as a fudge.

British Prime Minister John Major and his Irish counterpart John Bruton announced a breakthrough Tuesday, after months of deadlock over guerrilla disarmament and just hours before Mr. Clinton arrived in London early Wednesday.

The two leaders told a late-night news conference in London after an unscheduled summit they had fixed next February as the target date for preliminary all-party talks on the future of the British-ruled province.

These talks would include Sinn Fein, political wing of the banned IRA guerrilla group which fought for 25 years to oust Britain from Northern Ireland before a ceasefire 15 months ago.

In the second strand of a twin-track process, the two also agreed to establish an

independent international commission to advise how arms held by the Irish Republican Army and rival groups could be "decommissioned", or taken out of service.

Mr. Clinton hailed the new move. "The United States is proud to support the peacemakers," he said in Washington before he set off for a three-day visit to London, Belfast and Dublin.

He will be the first U.S. president to visit Northern Ireland. Since ceasefires by the rival guerrilla groups, some British troops have been withdrawn to the mainland and the province has been spared bombings and sectarian killings.

Sinn Fein, which has been demanding talks now with the province's other parties, cautiously welcomed Tuesday's accord and said it would wait to read the small print.

But the Ulster Unionists, the biggest party in a province whose Protestant majority wants to stay firmly linked to London, called it a pretence and a delaying

tactic.

"The only thing you could call this is a fudge," the party's leader, David Trimble, told Britain's BBC Radio. "There must be decommissioning and there will be no talks with Sinn Fein until that happens."

"Sinn Fein/IRA retain their weapons in order to threaten people. We must not give in to threats," he told BBC Television. "I am not going to talk to Sinn Fein."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, denied accusations that the two governments had only agreed on what they had never disagreed on, and that the agreement was a cosmetic step to smooth Mr. Clinton's visit.

"There's been absolutely no pressure brought about by the Americans or Mr. Clinton's visit or anything else," he said.

Mr. Clinton, whose country is home to around 40 million people of Irish extraction, had said earlier this year he hoped all-party peace talks would be under

way before his visit.

For months London and Dublin were stuck over Britain's demand that, before Sinn Fein can join the talks, the IRA must scrap at least some of its weapons to show good faith.

Tuesday's accord did not solve that issue. "The British government's position has not changed," Mr. Major said.

Sir Patrick said Dublin and London still disagreed over the crucial point but hoped that "instead of sitting and watching a roadblock", they could make progress with the initiative.

He said he hoped the talks would, by the end of February, have cleared the agenda and form for the all-party negotiations where a constitutional future for the province would be agreed, and stressed the Unionists would have to be enticed on board.

"If the Unionist chair is empty the process will be destroyed," Sir Patrick told BBC Radio.

Madonna 'was raped' when she was younger

LONDON (AFP) — American pop singer Madonna said in an interview that she was raped when she lived in New York before becoming a superstar. "I have been raped and it is not an experience I would ever glamorise," she told the New Musical Express, a British weekly pop newspaper. "It happened a long time ago, so over the years I've come to terms with it." She said the incident happened when she lived in New York and "was very young," but she did not elaborate. "That experience completely turned me round in terms of becoming much more street smart and much more savvy," she said. "Although it was devastating at the time, I know that it made me a much stronger person in retrospect. "It forced me to be a survivor." She added that she was not looking for pity in discussing the rape, which she revealed when questioned about pictures in her book entitled Sex, which features one photograph of people simulating a rape. "In my photograph it's obviously completely consensual," she said. "Everybody wants to do it."

Teacher wins legal battle over classroom strip

KARLSTAD, Sweden (AFP) — A Swedish adult education teacher who was forced to resign after stripping naked in class has been awarded \$23,000 in damages by a district court. Karlstad judicial officials said. Ireen Wachenfeldt, a 45-year old women's issues teacher, took off her clothes in front of her class of unemployed women one year ago in what she said was a bid "to boost their self-confidence." She said she wanted to show them that each person is valuable, whether they are 20 or 60 years old. The school headmaster did not approve and forced her to resign. Ms. Wachenfeldt later withdrew her resignation and sued the school.

Dead cow artist clinches British art prize

LONDON (R) — The split carcasses of a dead cow and its calf floating in green formaldehyde clinched Britain's most controversial art award, the Turner Prize, for its creator Damien Hirst. Hirst had been favourite to win the £20,000 (\$30,970) prize against three contenders, who included Beirut-born Mona Hatoum with a 12-minute video of her inner recesses. The chairman of the Turner Prize jury, Nicholas Serota, said Hirst had "created an extraordinary series of objects that have caught the public imagination."

U.S. aircraft factory worker lands \$69m

ST. LOUIS (R) — A 64-year-old woman who had worked in a factory for 29 years won \$68.5 million in last weekend's multi-state Powerball Lottery, lottery officials said. Jerry Sue Huellweig of St. Charles, Missouri, was the single winner of the jackpot, described by Missouri lottery officials as the largest prize of its type ever awarded in the state. Mr. Huellweig is a tool crib attendant at McDonnell Douglas Corp. Lottery officials said she planned to quit work immediately, instead of retiring next summer as planned. She plans to spend some of the money on a new house and car and share the rest with her family, including two daughters.

Gorbachev close to decision on political comeback

SYDNEY (AFP) — Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has told Australian television he is being pushed by the Russian people towards a political comeback.

In an interview screened by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) here late Tuesday, Mr. Gorbachev, 64, made clear he retains strong political ambition and will decide soon whether to enter the presidential race against ailing Russian President Boris Yeltsin in next year's election.

He also made clear his contempt for Mr. Yeltsin, branding his efforts to

reform the ailing Russian economy as "cowboyish" and "primitive" and alleging his role in defeating the August 1991 coup by hard-line Communists "wasn't so courageous" as it appeared. "His group could hardly keep him from running away," Mr. Gorbachev told ABC Lateline presenter Kerry O'Brien.

The interview, recorded in Tokyo, followed Mr. Gorbachev's comments to reporters in Sweden Monday saying he had not ruled out the possibility of running for president next year.

But the man who led the Soviet Union through "glasnost" and "perestroika" —

openness and reconstruction — to its unravelling and his retirement at Christmas 1991 said that in his recent travels through Russia the people were "actually asking me why I've been in the shadows for such a long time."

Speaking in Russian, he said the people also wanted to know how he could "stand by and watch the continued reforms which have brought Russia to its current situation."

"So I have to undertake some long, long and hard discussions," he said, answering a question on whether he would re-enter

politics. "And I have to tell you I'm not disappointed at all with the reception I've got in the regions, which is pushing me closer and closer to making a positive decision regarding my involvement."

"My trips show me people have sorted everything out and I can see that lots of people want me to visit them."

he said he would prefer to lead a party with a "centrist" orientation but it would unavoidably include former Communists who had taken to democracy and who had "maintained their addition to social stability."

S. Korean students riot over massacre probe

WANGJU, South Korea (R) — South Korean students wielding wooden staves clashed Wednesday with riot police in Kwangju during a protest to demand punishment for those responsible for a 1980 army massacre in the city.

Many of the students accused President Kim Young-Sam of hypocrisy in his efforts to bring to justice ex-presidents Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-Woo for their role in the slaughter of an officially estimated 200 or so pro-democracy protesters.

They demanded an independent inquiry into the tragedy and called on Mr. Kim to resign.

"There is no change in the nature of Kim, who took power after joining hands with the slaughterers," one student leader said, referring to Mr. Rob and Mr. Chun.

Mr. Kim, once a fiery opposition leader, joined forces with Mr. Rob's ruling camp to win the 1992 presidential election. He has ordered his Democratic Liberal Party to draft a special law to punish his two predecessors.

About 800 students fought pitched battles with riot police on one of Kwangju's main roads, paralyzing traffic and creating chaos in a busy financial district as they were beaten back with volleys of tear gas.

In Seoul, several dozen students were dragged away by police after a similar protest outside the homes of Mr. Rob and Mr. Chun near a university campus.

In a surprise move, opposition legislators dropped an attempt to have a court declare a coup that led to the massacre unconstitutional, a court spokesman said.

The appeal to the Constitutional Court, if successful, would have opened the way for the prosecution of Mr. Rob and Mr. Chun.

Lawmakers and three civic groups withdrew the appeal. According to the spokesman, they said it would only confuse the situation after Mr. Kim's

instructions to his part to draft a special law.

They appear to be satisfied that Mr. Kim's move will result in punishment for the two ex-presidents.

The move probably means the court will not pass judgment on the appeal against a July decision by prosecutors not to charge Mr. Roh and Mr. Chun on the grounds that their military grab for power was legally valid.

The court had been expected to announce a decision on the appeal on Thursday morning. Media reports said it had decided to strike down the prosecution ruling.

State radio reported that Mr. Chun was getting ready to fight any legal action against him.

In Kwangju, Mr. Kim's decision to reopen the most painful chapter in South Korea's history since the 1950-53 Korean War has revived bitter memories. Local residents say many thousands were killed in the army assault on their city.

"I believe it was not an accidental incident," Kwangju Mayor Song Eon-Jong said in an interview with Reuters.

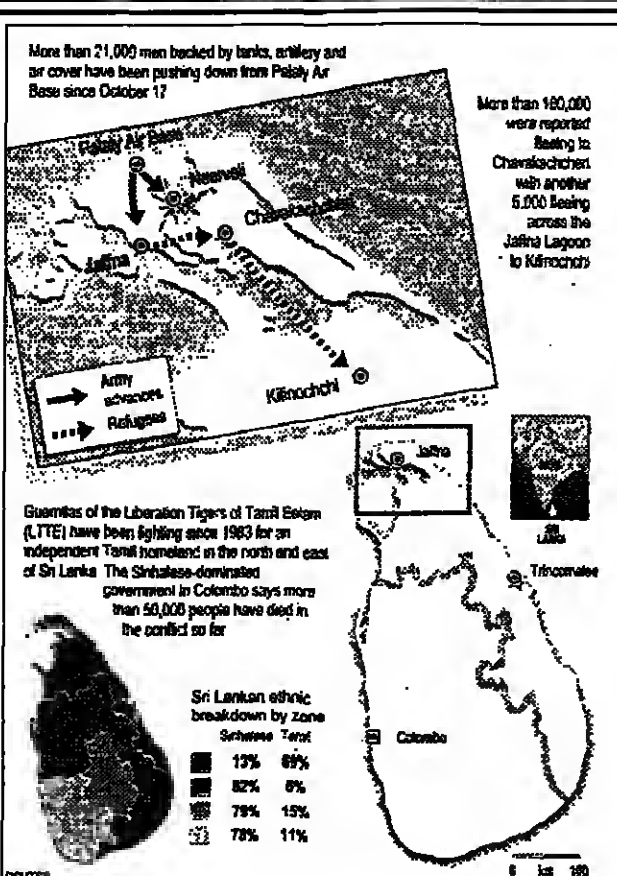
Although it was important to look into the actual army savagery, it was more crucial to establish the motive of those responsible, he said.

"Why such an incident had to take place, who staged it and with what intention — this must be clarified. This must be the key issue," he said.

"It's a nightmare," said Park Yoon-Sun, who heads the Association of the Injured in Kwangju. "All the truth should be uncovered once and for all."

Kwangju is economically backward south Cholla province, a traditional hotbed of rebellion, rose in revolt against martial law imposed on May 17, 1980.

Elite paratroopers were sent to put down the protests. Demonstrators, many of them students, were stripped and clubbed, dragged behind trucks from ropes, bayoneted and shot. Their bodies were piled in trucks and carted away.



Senate Whitewater panel opens new hearings

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. Senate panel resumed hearings Tuesday into the Whitewater affair, focusing on what the White House might have been told of government investigations into two Arkansas companies.

The Senate Whitewater Committee is trying to find out if the White House tried to influence investigations into the Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Institution and Capital Management Services Inc.

Madison was headed by James McDougal, who with his wife Susan was a partner of Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton in the failed Whitewater land development in Arkansas.

Capital Management, an investment firm that got federal aid to make loans to the socially and economically disadvantaged, was headed by David Hale. Mr. Hale has charged that Mr. Clinton pressured him to make illegal loans, including \$200,000 to Master Marketing, headed by Susan McDougal. Mr. Clinton has denied Mr. Hale's charges.

Mr. Clinton, when he was Arkansas governor, appointed Mr. Hale a municipal judge in Little Rock. Mr. Hale also had ties with Mr. Clinton's successor, Gov. Jim Guy Tucker.

Wayne Foren, a former high aide at the Small Business Administration (SBA), told the committee Mr. Hale in a 1993 conversation had sought SBA aid based on "non-cash assets" he held.

Asked why people would band over tens of millions of dollars to him, Mr. Hale replied it was because he could "do things for them in Arkansas," Mr. Foren said. He quoted Mr. Hale as saying he had influence with Mr. Tucker and Mr. Clinton.

SBA Deputy Associate Administrator Charles Shepperson said that at a meeting in February 1993, Mr. Hale had mentioned Mr. Clinton, "appearing to be blustering ... name dropping."

Mr. Foren said he had briefed Erskine Bowles, now Mr. Clinton's deputy chief of staff, about the Hale case so as to alert Mr. Bowles prior to a Senate hearing on his nomination to be SBA administrator.

Sri Lankan troops take Jaffna Administration Centre

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops pushing deep into the heart of the northern Jaffna stronghold Wednesday as police released pictures of rebel chiefs wanted for assassinating Indian and local leaders.

Troops were consolidating their positions near the town centre, where the administration building, known as the "Kachcheri," is located, and clearing mines and boobytraps, they said.

Rebels trapped inside the town by the army's six-week long offensive were still offering stiff resistance, they added.

Also Wednesday, the Sri Lankan Navy attacked a Tamil rebel Sea Tiger convoy Wednesday, killing four rebel suicide squad members and destroying a boat, a military statement said.

It said navy patrol craft also captured 15 rebel boats, including one loaded with a car, in the attack off the northern Pooneryn military base, south of the rebels' Jaffna stronghold.

Ten Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels were reported captured.

The Sri Lankan army pushed deeper into the heart of the Tamil Tiger guerrillas' northern Jaffna stronghold Wednesday as police released pictures of rebel chiefs wanted for assassinating Indian and local leaders.

Army commandos and airborne troops, well inside Jaffna, resumed their advance at dawn, carefully picking their way through a maze of booby traps and mines laid by trapped rebels, a military spokesman said.

"Troops, backed by armour and artillery, were progressing cautiously due to the heavily built-up nature of the terrain, enemy mines, booby traps and resistance," he said.

Three soldiers were killed and 26 wounded in Tuesday's fighting with the LTTE rebels, who are making a final stand in Jaffna City, he added.

The troops reached a rail track running through Jaffna Tuesday as the rebels withdrew their wounded by boat across the shallow Jaffna Lagoon, their only escape route after the army sealed all land access to the town, military sources said.

In Colombo, pictures of

Tiger chief Velupillai Prabhakaran and nine other rebel commanders appeared in local newspapers above police notices offering a reward for information leading to their capture.

The police have put up half-a-million U.S. dollars for information on Mr. Prabhakaran, whose extradition is sought by India to face charges over the assassination of its former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi. Gandhi was blown up by a suspected woman LTTE rebel suicide bomber in May 1991.

Gandhi sent Indian troops to Sri Lanka in 1987 under a peace accord between the two neighbours. But the accord fell apart and the Indian troops ended up fighting the Tamil rebels before being withdrawn in 1990.

Earlier this month the Sri Lanka police cited treason, murder and complicity in the assassination of Gandhi as three of the charges against Mr. Prabhakaran.

The rebel commanders are also wanted for the 1993 assassination of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa and several political and military leaders as well as for the massacre of several hundred Sinhalese and Muslims.

Mr. Prabhakaran admitted Monday that the army might take Jaffna, but said the door to peace would be closed as long as troops occupied the town.

"They may hoist the flag (in Jaffna) but...as long as the armed forces occupy Jaffna, the door to peace talks will always remain tightly shut," he said in a rebel radio broadcast heard in northern areas.

Mr. Prabhakaran's speech dashed hopes of an early and peaceful solution to the Tigers' bloody war for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the island's north and east. More than 50,000 people have died since the war began in 1983.

The military puts its own death toll at about 300 since the Oct. 17 launch of the offensive to capture Jaffna and says the LTTE have lost over 1,600 fighters.

The military is adamant it will not let Jaffna slip back into rebel hands.

"Holding Jaffna will not be easy, but we're confident our troops are up to it," the military spokesman said.

U.S. promises fast reply on Haiti documents

WASHINGTON (R) — The State Department Tuesday promised a rapid reply to a request from Haiti for return of documents seized by U.S. troops who went there last year and officials indicated they would like to hand them back.

Department spokesman Nicholas Burns confirmed reports that the Defence Department was holding documents, photos and tapes taken from supporters of Haiti's ousted military junta, and that the Haitian government had officially asked for their return.

"We have a good relationship with the Haitian government. The fact that the Haitian government has made a formal request is important to us," Mr. Burns told a news briefing.

"We owe them the response, the ball is in our court. And we plan to get back to the Haitian government as quickly as possible so that we can end this misunderstanding."

Mr. Burns' words suggested the State Department was keen to respond favourably to the Haitian request.

But in Port-Au-Prince, a senior U.S. diplomat said the documents were technically not the property of the Haitian government and could compromise American security interests if released. In Washington, Pentagon officials said they had reservations about turning over all the documents for fear they could be misused.

The documents were seized when members of the U.S. army's 10th Mountain Division raided the Port-Au-Prince headquarters of the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH), the main paramilitary group backing the former junta.

The U.S. troops led a multinational force which took control in Haiti in September, 1994 after the resignation of the military leaders who ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991.

Mr. Burns said Mr. Aristide's government, now restored to office, had asked on Oct. 31 for the return of the materials.

The New York Times, which broke the story Tuesday, said more than 150,000 pages of documents had been taken both from FRAPH and the Haitian Armed Forces Headquarters.

It quoted Haitian officials as saying the return of the documents was indispensable to their efforts to restore political stability to their country by disarming and prosecuting human rights violators linked to the old regime.

Mr. Burns said the documents were being held by the Pentagon's Defence Intelligence Agency and he could give no details of them. But he defended the U.S. army's action in taking them from an "illegitimate organisation that no longer exists".

Washington, concerned with ensuring that Mr. Aristide honours a pledge to hold presidential elections next month and to hand over to a successor in February, is anxious to avoid unnecessary frictions with Port-Au-Prince.

Several officials who asked not to be identified said the reason Washington had sat on the documents for so long was simply that, beset by other problems such as Bosnia, it had not gotten around to studying them all in detail.

One State Department official said Haiti's request to get the documents back was "absolutely legitimate". But he said: "We have to get together with the Pentagon and just ascertain what's in these documents and what is the appropriate way to resolve this problem."

A Pentagon official said the Defence Department "has some real concerns" that the documents — said to contain lists of FRAPH members, many of whom joined for non-political reasons — could be used to form "vigilante hit lists".

"(The department) has some concerns and reservations about just dumping all this information back into Haiti. We are voicing our concerns and the final decision has not been reached yet," he said.

Hong Kong, China Mandarins seek to break the ice

HONG KONG (R) — A handful of top Hong Kong civil servants are preparing for a meeting Thursday which could help make or break a smooth transition to Chinese rule.

"It's an ice-breaker," said Kerry McGlynn, spokesman of the British Colonial Administration, which will return sovereignty over the territory to Beijing in mid-1997.

The Hong Kong Mandarins will meet their Chinese counterparts for a purely social get-together in the hope the two sides will grasp an olive branch of goodwill and bury years of mistrust.

There will be no cameras and protocol will be kept to a minimum during Thursday's three-and-a-half hour meeting at the royal Hong Kong jockey club, culminating in a luncheon.

Morale and confidence in Hong Kong's civil service has taken a severe battering as Sino-British relations

deteriorated.

Despite assurances from Beijing, civil servants say uncertainty about life after 1997 has prompted an exodus of staff at all levels and left others demoralised.

They want assurances from China they will not be victimised, guarantees of independence, and pledges that the post-1997 civil service will remain free of cronyism and corruption.

Chief secretary Anson Chan, the top civil servant and deputy governor, summed up the views of the service at a Foreign Correspondents' Club lunch recently.

Mr. Chan said bluntly that Hong Kong's 180,000 functionaries in reality served neither London nor Beijing.

They served Hong Kong and Hong Kong alone, she said, and would continue doing so under a "one country, two systems" form of government which China has pledged for Hong Kong after 1997.

With little more than 18 months to go before the British colony reverts to China, the task of bolstering sagging morale is becoming vital, government officials said.

The civil service plays a central role in Hong Kong, and a crisis of confidence in its ranks could have dangerous consequences for the entire territory.

Keen to stress that Britain alone governs Hong Kong until the stroke of midnight on June 30, 1997, the British were determined to keep the civil service meetings as neutral as possible and to hold them in Hong Kong, not Beijing, government officials said.

Civil servants, too, said they wanted to ensure there was no chance the meetings could be construed as submitting to what one called "job interviews" for posts beyond 1997.

China has demanded a say in senior appointments, a request which Britain

Quebec separatists reject Chretien bill

MONTREAL (AFP) — Quebec separatists have rejected constitutional proposals from Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, saying they were "light-years" away from the aspirations of the mainly French-speaking province.

The separatists, who narrowly lost an independence referendum last month, claimed Tuesday the proposals represented a retreat from previous concessions offered in 1990 and 1992 which they already shot down as inadequate.

"We will certainly oppose this measure which would be a retreat from proposals that have already been rejected by referendum in Quebec," said separatist leader Lucien Bouchard, who is poised to become the province's new premier.

"In Quebec, we are already light-years away from all that," said Mr. Bouchard, who heads the Bloc Quebecois separatist party in the Canadian parliament.

"There are people in Ontario who have yet to understand that Quebecers do not want to waste time with these confused notions," he added.

Mr. Chretien, hoping to head off another independence bid by Quebec separatists after the Oct. 30 referendum, presented Monday a bill recognising Quebec as a "distinct society within Canada."

A second bill, to be offered in the federal parliament Wednesday, would give Quebec, Ontario and the Atlantic and western provinces each a veto over any future constitutional amendment.

The western provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, and the Atlantic provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, would be lumped into two regions, each with a veto.

Another bill, to be filed this week, would band over all federal jurisdiction for manpower, education and training to the country's provincial governments.

The measures also fired up little enthusiasm from leaders in other regions around the nation.

"It sounds to me what we're doing is fighting the next provincial election in Quebec and perhaps hoping to avoid another referendum ... as opposed to really trying to find constitutional change," said Ontario Premier Mike Harris.

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Two regions, same goals

SPANISH PRIME Minister Felipe Gonzales may have best summed up the results of the European-Mediterranean meeting that ended Tuesday in Barcelona when he described the conference as the launching-pad of an ambitious process which will rely on follow-up mechanisms and incentives to institutionalise dialogue and move forward.

"May Barcelona be remembered as an appointment with unity and progress," Mr. Gonzales said reflecting the optimistic side which the declaration of the 27-nation conference ended up adopting.

That declaration was not only adopted "comprehensively and unreservedly" by the 15 European Union nations and the 12 Mediterranean states that participated in the conference, but also included a wide range of principles and guidelines which if and when implemented would indeed forge a new partnership between the two groups of countries for generations to come. And while the declaration pledges cooperation on joint security, fighting crime in all its forms, including drug trafficking, and lessening migratory pressures on the EU countries, it also urges respect for human rights and calls for the promotion of the rule of law, democracy and cultural and religious diversity in a bid to apply complementary efforts for the purpose of attaining the overall objectives of the conference.

Admittedly, though, the main incentive for all these multi-dimensional endeavours was the EU pledge of \$6 billion in aid for the 12 participating Mediterranean countries for the years 1995-1999 together with a similar amount in soft loans. From a Jordanian point of view, the Barcelona conference and its outcome is, to quote the words of Crown Prince Hassan, "an extension of the collective effort of the 63 nationalities which contributed to the success of the Amman economic summit."

There is no denying that economic development and security are inter-related in every region of the world including the Middle East and North Africa. As British Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind has rightly observed, "prosperity and stability go hand in hand."

We in the Middle East have yet to feel the dividends of peace that our peoples have been expecting. As long as the promise of material support remains mere rhetoric, the causes of instability would remain with all the countries in and around the Mediterranean basin. Even fundamentalism and extremism in all their forms would continue to haunt the whole region as long as poverty, unemployment and social injustice continue to afflict its peoples.

Much will now depend on follow up to the Barcelona meeting in terms of translating the components of the declaration into deeds and actions. Meanwhile we can only hope that the goals and aspirations of the Barcelona conference would see the light of day soon enough to reverse the tide of instability, insecurity and extremism in our part of the world and throughout

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Rai urged the Arab states, which joined the coalition against Iraq, to terminate their sanctions on the Iraqi people and save innocent lives. Sultan Al Hattab also called on the oil-rich Arab states, which have been financing U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus's mission, to refrain from further payments so that the mission can end, and the U.N. sanctions end with it. Expressing deep concern over the fate of the 20 million Iraqis who face starvation and untold suffering because of the embargo, the writer said the Arab countries should come to their kinsmen's aid and end their plight before any one else in the world community can do that. The writer blamed the United States for leading the campaign against Iraq, as well as Arab and foreign countries that were involved in the coalition against Iraq. He also blamed the Iraqi regime for failing to commit itself to meeting certain conditions. He said that the Arab countries and the world community at large should work seriously towards ending this shameful situation and undertake whatever steps deemed necessary to rescue the Iraqi people.

SALEH QALLAB, a writer in Al Dastour, urged Palestinians living in Jordan and hold valid permits allowing them to return to Palestine, to go there and vote in the coming elections. At least 50,000 Palestinians living in the Kingdom, temporarily or permanently, are eligible to register for the general elections and are duty bound to participate in the national elections early next year and back the Palestine National Authority's efforts to lay the foundations for a future Palestine state, said the writer. For many years, the Palestinians have been hoping to acquire nationality and statehood, and for many years thousands of Palestinians fell as martyrs in defence of Palestinian soil, he added. The time has come now for the Palestinians people to prove their patriotism, especially as the struggle for Palestine is not only geographic but also demographic, by not returning to their homeland, the Palestinian will be giving the chance to more immigrant Jews to take their place, concluded the writer.

The View from Academia

The heresy of overpoliticisation — and of underpoliticisation

THERE IS no doubt that preoccupation with politics is not only a temptation which members of the human species find difficult to resist, but a right and a need. Like many rights and needs, however, interest in politics can be made use of fairly and effectively, neglected or abused. At this point in history, individuals in our society tend to neglect or abuse politics rather than use it sensibly.

As we know, the term "politics" denotes two interconnected but distinct meanings. The first refers to governmental philosophies, plans, positions, policies, measures and acts; simultaneously, it refers to the response or reaction to them on part of the populace or the governed. The second is more general, encompassing essentially all human preoccupations, pursuits and walks of life.

A person speaking for the rights of children to a congenial home — airing views about such rights publically, writing about them in magazines and newspapers, talking to parents about them, working towards the creation of laws which guarantee and protect such rights, forming pressure groups to help speed up change, etc. — is a person involved in a "political" act, a legitimate and healthy political act. The same is true for a person speaking for the rights of women at home and at work, the rights of students to a good education, the rights of teachers, the rights of blue-collar workers, the rights of bus drivers, the rights of pedestrians, among others. The domain of politics and political action is more spacious than we normally take it to be. And it is open for everyone, as long as they are serious, well-meaning, informed, reasonable and able.

In our society, little justice is being done, on part of individuals, to politics in both the first and second sense.

What is meant by "little justice"? Well, the following. First of all, we as individuals and society pay more attention to politics in its first, narrow sense than to politics in its broader sense. While many of us would be greatly interested in talking, reading or writing about inter-Arab tensions and friction (or "solidarity" and "brotherliness"), for example, very few would show serious interest in the welfare of kids in the so-called "popular" areas, in the safety of the water we drink, in the quality of education at our public schools or in the speedy disappearance of nomadic life in our part of the world. In fact, if you ask the vast majority of people in our society about what politics means, the answers will boil down almost solely to governmental policies and measures.

Secondly, and worse still, we have even narrowed further the already narrow definition of politics. Even when we focus attention on governmental work, we focus it on a meagre portion of it. The government is doing, (or supposed to do) important work in many vital spheres. What spheres do we show a serious interest in? How many of us inquire, speak, read and write about what the government is doing in the field of energy and mineral resources, labour, municipal and rural affairs, social development, administrative development, justice, agricul-

ture, youth and culture and so on?

What are the "hot" matters which crop up continually in our informal and formal discourse, in our homes and at our associations, establishments and unions? How many matters are there? A handful. Peace with Israel, "normalisation" of relations with Israel, U.S. Middle Eastern policies ("conspiracies" rather), Arab aspirations and frustrations, the regime and the "opposition," and a few other issues which emerge out of some dramatic acts and statements. One understands, of course, both the significance and urgency of such issues. Who must not be concerned about the peace process or its implications? But what one cannot understand is why or how these particular matters should, necessarily and ultimately, be more important than our own health and the quality of our daily life? Why should Arab nationalism be, necessarily and ultimately again, more important and urgent than the fate and future of kids in our popular areas who spend the whole day outside their homes playing soccer in the middle of the street, wading in sewage water and rummaging garbage containers? Why should it be more important and urgent to me than the fate of a four- or five-year old girl (or the many likes of her) who, unaccompanied by an adult or an older sibling, is sent to buy groceries from a shameless old man who harasses or molests her tens of times before he is caught? Why should it be more important and urgent to me than the causes of cancer or crime, two fatal diseases with which our society has been plagued lately? Why should it be more important and urgent to me than the performance of our teachers, civil servants, technicians, bank tellers who are entrusted with work which bears directly on our fates and destinies? Why should it be more important and urgent than the behaviour of our motorists, pedestrians, waiters and janitors with whom we are in constant and close encounter?

The least we could do is to give equal interest and treatment to such issues. Yes, let's talk about Arab solidarity, the fate of democracy in our society, the freedom of the press, the importance of "opposition," and "normalisation" (intelligently, please!), but let's also talk about the so many burning and equally vital daily concerns and problems which are staring us daily in the face and crippling our pursuit of happiness, liberty and a more decent life.

The way I see it, we have, in our attempt to exercise our political rights, a problem of either overpoliticisation or underpoliticisation. What do you call it when our engineers talk more about "normalisation" and Arab solidarity than the quality of architecture in our urban and rural areas, than road safety, than the status of our rising industries and the fate of many unemployed or underpaid engineers? Why are the lawyers, dentists, hairstylists, etc. more alive and vital during parliamentary elections than at any other time? You mean to tell me that the lawyers, dentists, hairstylists as union members have no other equally important and urgent matters to deal with in their unions?

That the affairs of their own professions are so unexciting, dull and insignificant?

We are aware, of course, that such unions came at a certain point in time to allow members to express political concerns that could not be expressed elsewhere. But now that we have genuine parliamentary life (or potentially so) and now that democracy (though still in its infancy) is in full swing, what is the excuse?

What I am interested in affirming here, however, is that when the said professionals show more active involvement in issues such as Arab nationalism, the role of "opposition," and "normalisation," (issues which are better dealt with elsewhere), they are overpoliticising — in the narrow sense of the term. At the same time, when matters related to their own specialty are being either deemphasised or neglected, they are clearly underpoliticising. Also, assuming that involvement in politics in the wider sense of the term is everyone's right and privilege, why do not the engineers, dentists, lawyers and hairstylists show interest in poverty, in crime, in child molestation, in education, in traffic? Are they experts only on "normalisation" and Arab nationalism?

The same can be said about the Writers' Union. Why do we hear from it more about "normalisation" and Arab nationalism than about the quality of the poetry and fiction which our elegant writers are supposed to produce? Why has not our local and Arab literature, in the testimony of experts, succeeded internationally the way, say, South American literature has succeeded? Should not this be a main concern for the Writers' Union? I visited the said union twice, in the company of a friend. Each time, I felt I was in a parliament not in the elevating company of creative novelists and poets. Both times, the speakers were not poets reading poems but parliamentarians and preachers thundering about Zionism and imperialism. It may be just my bad luck, but I have a hunch that this is what goes on most of the time.

Go to the mosque on Friday. What do you hear? The same overpoliticised subjects delivered over and over again in a very unexciting manner. You hear little or nothing about the odd behaviour of worshippers who once out of the mosque are no longer courteous and pious, about car accidents, about excellence of performance, about health, about education, about (even) our religion itself. Most of the preachers are politicians.

What we need to do is obvious. Wherever we are overpoliticising, we need to depoliticise — i.e. to curb and economise our interest in politics in the narrow sense of the word, though by no means give it up entirely. Wherever we are underpoliticising, we need to politicise, in the broader sense of the term. And the initiative to do so should come from us individuals, associations and institutions, and we should not wait for the government (or force it) to do it for us. Overpoliticisation is a heresy, and so is underpoliticisation. The middleground is always the best.

Egyptian women fearing the polls

CAIRO (R) — When Egyptian voters headed to polling booths on Wednesday to elect members of parliament, they found only 45 candidates — or one per cent of the 4,040 people competing — are women.

Researchers and women's activists blame such a poor turnout on the traditional belief in Egypt, as in many other countries, that politics is a man's game.

"Many newspapers have taken a very provocative line on women's participation in the elections," said Mariene Tadros, an activist with the human rights group Egyptian Association for Enlightenment. "They say things like 'women enter men's battlefield.' Why does politics belong to men?"

Salwa Gomaa, a professor at the American University in Cairo, criticised parties for not nominating more women.

The ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) fielded seven women, the opposition Liberal Wafd and the Islamist Labour Party had three women each, and the socialist National Progressive Unionist Party and Al Ahram had

one woman each.

Mona Korachi was one of the 30 women running as independents. She was dropped as a candidate for the Wafd Party at the last minute and then expelled for running independently.

"I don't have the support of my party and I am denied publicity through our newspaper. If I don't succeed I stand at least to overcome women's fear of elections and to be an example or a role model to other women," Ms. Korachi told Reuters.

Naglaa Al Qalyonli, the Islamist Labour Party candidate in the crowded Cairo district of Shuhra, said she was initially wary at being the only woman campaigning.

"I was very scared of being a woman amongst all these tough men. I was surprised people accepted it as long as I presented a political programme and discussed it with them," she said.

She said police prevented her from holding rallies so she ended up holding nightly meetings with constituents in cafes, which are generally considered male domains.

Women activists have recently called for a return to a quota system to encourage more women to enter politics.

Egyptian women won the right to vote and stand for elections in 1956. Since then the highest number of women parliamentarians was between 1979, when then President Anwar Sadat assigned 30 seats for them, and 1987, when President Hosni Mubarak's government cancelled the seats, saying they violated guarantees of sexual equality in the constitution.

There were only 10 women in the outgoing parliament of 454 seats, three of whom were appointed by Mubarak and seven who were elected.

Women have traditionally been more active in some areas of public life in Egypt than in many other Arab countries, including the liberal professions, culture and the arts.

But despite isolated exceptions such as Minister for Social Affairs Amal Osman, political analysts say male domination of politics is deeply ingrained, predating a rise in Islamist politics in the 1980s.

About-face for S.Korea's Kim

By Yoo Choon-Sik
Reuters

SEOUL — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam's decision to punish two former heads of state for political manoeuvring for more votes in parliamentary elections early next year, analysts have said.

"I suspect his real aim is to win more votes in the elections, rather than to wipe out harmful political legacies," Ra Jong-Yil, politics professor at Seoul's Kyunghee University, said in a telephone interview.

The next parliamentary elections are due to be held in late April 1996.

President Kim last week ordered his ruling party to draft a special law to punish former presidents Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo for brutally crushing a 1980 civil uprising.

The decision came amid mounting calls that the probe into Mr. Roh's huge slush fund scandal should also look at the 1992 presidential election, in which Mr. Kim came to power.

Mr. Kim said the law was "necessary to deal with the responsible people who caused suffering and sorrow of the people" by crushing the pre-democracy revolt, a close aide said.

But the decision runs directly counter to his previous statements, which asked the public to let future historians pass judgement on the masterminds behind the bloody military suppression, critics said.

Seoul prosecutors, in a much-awaited report on their year-long investigation into lawsuits filed against Mr. Chun, Mr. Roh and 56 others on insurrection charges, said in July they would not charge them with any offence.

Although excessive army suppression of the Kwangju revolt had resulted in huge human losses, their report said no evidence was found that the military rulers had deliberately plotted to cause the incident to consolidate their power.

Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh, both army generals 15 years ago, were key figures in the suppression of the rebellion in the southwestern city of

Kwangju. About 200 people were killed by official counts, but dissident groups and residents say the death toll was much higher.

Mr. Kim's campaign to stamp out corruption has been seriously marred by a slush fund scandal involving Mr. Roh.

Mr. Roh confessed to amassing \$654 million in illicit funds during his 1988-93 presidential term. He was arrested on November 16 on charges of receiving more than \$300 million from business tycoons.

Mr. Roh also said he kept about \$222 million when he left office. Prosecutors are still digging up where the rest of the money went.

Professor Ra said the decision to push for the prosecution of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh, at first widely welcomed, would prove not as helpful as expected in the ruling party's efforts to regain popularity.

"Kim went against his own government's recent statements," said Mr. Ra. "This will further threaten his credibility, not helping his party win more votes in the coming elections."

LETTERS

JWA-Are you for real?

To the Editor:

I CAN understand a political group or organisation insisting on a certain plank or position regarding political views, but a "writers association," of all places, would be the last place I would expect a strait-jacket mentality to be imposed on its members. I say that Hisham Yonis (who was dismissed from the Writer's Association this week for "normalising" with Israel) is better off to be out of it, if by staying in it means compromising one's integrity.

The issue is not normalisation of ties with Israel, per se, but integrity, and in my estimation, a "writer" (unless he is maybe an overt writer of politics) who would subscribe to a blanket political view of the association he belongs to would be better off if he left pen and took up another occupation. I certainly am not interested in reading the material of someone who would submit to this kind of shackling of his mind and pen.

So, welcome to the world where the winds blow free, Hisham. Keep doing your stuff, keep your soul unfettered by compromise, and don't worry about lesser men who are trying to paralyse our minds and lock-step us into the past. You have not "tarnished the image of the association," as Mr. Bassel Rafa'eh, member of the administrative council of the Jordanian Writers' Association (JWA) claimed and neither are you a "bad example for Jordanians." On the contrary, I salute you. Were there were more like you, not only in the Writers Association but in the other professional associations.

Bob Robertson,
Amman.

Wasfi — a private memory

To the Editor:

MANY THINGS were said and written about Wasfi Tel this week — at the special seminar and in the press — by men well-placed for public speaking on the political import of national figures. The voices on this subject will die out soon, but before they do, I would like to share a private image of an uncle, to complement that of the former public figure, because perhaps it is the smallest and unsaid things that bear the most lasting human significance.

My private home has many pictures of Wasfi. My favourite photographs are the personal ones — all pre-colour black and white, light and shade — with a plump and contented cat called Panda (long since gone); head bent over papers alone at the office in shirtsleeves; smiling up at the camera from his then youthful garden. At the time the photographs were taken, I was not old enough to appreciate his political person — only his great personal presence. I would sit by his side as he quietly drank his early morning coffee overlooking the trees and my aunt Sadiyeh planted — some brought back as saplings from Iraq and Iran, his first ambassadorial postings — before the Salt road that could at that time take us to Jerusalem and Ramallah for an afternoon's outing.

My other memories are of the three ink-blue triangular bedouin tattooed dots on his hand — they tell me he had those done as a young man. He could make rose-water — his roses still bloom — and sometimes towards the end he slept with a gun under

his pillow. He made the arid lands around what had been Dawson's field bloom into a prosperous farm before his death. He even let me keep an additional kitten brought down from the neighbouring bedouins despite Sadiyeh's protests, even though I burst past the closed door of the Arabic room where he was sitting with many men to infatigably plead my feline case one afternoon. He took us for drives in the now old jaguar, with that leaping jaguar figurehead so impressive to a child (and adult); I remember how on one snatched Eid vacations to Aqaba he suddenly stopped the whole mystified prime ministerial convoy — while at the wheel of that car — to get out into a field and bend down to pick up a handful of the soil he loved so much to see how far south it had rained. Many years later after he was gone, I watched from his upstairs library window as it was towed away for an attempted overhaul with no one at the wheel — like the riderless horse at funerals.

More years — 24 — have passed and I now fully comprehend the impact of Wasfi's public self. I still search for his ideals in the eyes and faces of others — sometimes I find them — and try to maintain his standards in my own life, turning to his photographs and his father's (Mustapha Wahbe El Tel) prophetic poetry on the perilous path of the free. I believe we all still look for men similarly true to themselves and others, and above all to their country.

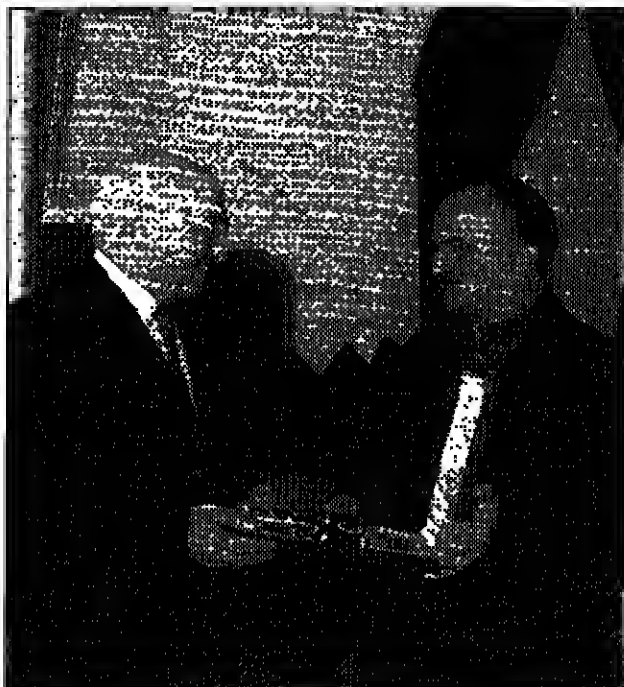
Diala Al Jabri,
Amman.

Society on the Move

Memories that relive history

The Prime Ministry has promoted two men to the position of advisor. This time the principals are Hashem Sabbagh and Hilmi Surabi. Mr. Sabbagh, who has been with the prime ministry on contract for about six months was hired as an official government employee with his appointment as advisor for economic affairs. Mr. Surabi, similarly, was promoted to advisor for legal affairs. Attempts to discover a bit more about both officials' backgrounds were thwarted by a possible misunderstanding of the urgency of newspaper deadlines. In nearly the "same breath," this week the Prime Minister issued a circular urging government employees to report to work on time, remain at their offices until the work day is officially over, and commit themselves to being helpful to the public. The apparent disregard for maintaining office hours seems to have caught the attention of many more diligent public officials. Only this week one minister laughed incredulously when after several attempts to reach different officers in his ministry as well as others at about 1:45 p.m. failed. "No one wants to work," sighed the minister. Hence the need for constant reminders by the Prime Minister himself it seems.

A HISTORIAN MAKES HISTORY: One gentleman whose "work" speaks for itself is Raouf Abu Jaber, who on Wednesday was decorated by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, for his 36 years of service as honorary consul of the Netherlands in Jordan. Dr. Abu Jaber received the Istiklal Medal of the First Order at the end of his tenure as the Netherlands is preparing to establish its own embassy in Amman early next year. A reception in appreciation of Dr. Abu Jaber's "outstanding service" was hosted last night at the InterContinental Hotel by Dutch Ambassador to Syria Robert Meys and his wife for about 400 of Dr. Abu Jaber's associates and friends. Born in Solt in 1925, Dr. Abu Jaber, who will Friday celebrate his 70th birthday, says he does not feel as if 36 years have passed since taking up his consular duties. A graduate of the Bishops School, Dr. Abu Jaber first studied Business Administration, but declined a government posting, opting to establish various enterprises under the Sa'd Abu Jaber & Sons "trademark" in 1946. Having established the first insurance venture in the Kingdom, he moved into industry, most popular of which has been the Abu Jaber brewery and soft drinks industries. By the early 80s, admittedly tired of industry, Dr. Abu Jaber went back to school, finishing a masters degree in modern history in 1984 and obtaining a Ph.D. in history at Oxford in 1987. He was twice decorated by the Dutch royal family: first as an officer by the late Queen Juliana and years later as a commander by Queen



HRH Crown Prince Hassan presents Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber with the Istiklal Medal of the First Order upon ending his 36 years of service as honorary consul of the Netherlands to Jordan (photo by Boghos)

Beatrix. Still active in his businesses as well as the Rotary Club and Orthodox Society, of which he is president, Dr. Abu Jaber is considering writing his third book: this one on the history of 19th century Jordan.

COLLECTING IMPRESSIONS: Following in the family footsteps, perhaps unknowingly, Diana Abu Jaber, the daughter of Ghassan and Patricia Abu Jaber of Syracuse, New York, has "come home" after 25 years to research, collect impressions and write her second novel. Author of "Arabian Jazz," about the experiences of first generation Arab-American daughters, Diana and her husband Michael J. Clark, arrived in Amman in mid-October, have become adept at the finer arts of mansaf-eating, and have dug their heels into Amman for their one-year stay. While Diana, who is here on a Fulbright scholarship, looks

into the "experience of (Palestinian) women refugees" and interlaces them into her novel, Michael will start the spring semester at the University of Jordan lecturing on American literature and possibly criticism. There could also be a stint for Diana in directing a play at Al Isra University. But a scheduled event is a talk on Dec. 10 at the University of Jordan's English Department on her experiences with writing, which is open to the public. We will keep in contact with Diana and Michael and see if after their year here they might consider an extension or return to Eugene Oregon where she is a professor of creative writing and he is an attorney and professor of English.

'YA GOTTA HAVE A GIMMICK': Trying their talents out in what they expect will be more lucrative endeavours is the tripartite of professionals, journalist Nermeen Murad, Kodak representative in Jordan Wajih Murad and reinsurance expert Mayada Ghosein. Nermeen, who is the Italian news agency, ANSA, correspondent in Jordan, hooked up with brother Wajih and his wife Mayada to establish Characters, a shop where children will find all sorts of useful paraphernalia sporting their favourite cartoon and adventure characters. The concept is somewhat new to Jordan, and the new partners see it as based on the idea that "kids identify with the characters." Opened near the Italian ice-cream shop in Sweifiyeh (Nermeen insists on retaining some allegiance to her Mediterranean connection as she does to the Jordan Times). Characters has started with a collection of products from Impulse, the world's largest distributor of characters. The partners plan to expand into clothing and characters for the young-at-heart. But one gimmick they seem less inclined to adopt is to sing a few bars of "Now it's time to say good-bye" when they close shop each evening.

SILK & ORGANZA & DAYS GONE BY: Getting into character was no trouble for 15 young women who modelled before an audience of nearly 750 last Monday at the InterContinental Hotel in a grand show of fashion spanning seven decades. The organisation and minute attention to detail was credited to period collector Asma Nobei. Ms. Naber contacted 58 women around Amman and asked them to lend her their wedding gowns, evening dresses and all sorts of beads and bobbles for this one-time extravaganza of a showing of 20s flapper dresses and Gatsby era flash, up to the mini-skirts and return of plat-



On the catwalk in a 1930s "Gatsby" era evening dress

form shoes in the 70s. All pulled together with the talent in accessories which the Naber women pride themselves in. More than a moment of nostalgia was felt as the women who lent their wedding gowns watched a new generation walk by in whites and ecrus of years ago, while on a nearby screen photograph's of that very same dress appeared worn by the actual bride way-back-when. Some of the more memorable dresses saw some rare moments in history such as Mrs. Leila Fond Nimri's evening gown she wore at the wedding of Princess Anne of England. Mrs. Aisha Jawdat Sha'sha's robe de soiree worn at His Majesty King Hussein's wedding to Princess Dina, and the late Mary Ann Kawar's full-length finery worn when she curtsied before Queen Juliana of Holland. While Asma Naber says that all involved and attending had a wonderful time going down memory lane, and all proceeds would benefit charities in the Kingdom, she is not so sure she can follow her own act. "But the popularity of the event and the sights of disappointment from those who missed it may yet spur Ms. Naber to give it another go.

Jennifer Hamarneh

A bookish battle for writers' rights

A new authors' group accuses the Hebrew Writers Union of racism, reports Helen Kaye

THE PEOPLE of the Book have not one, but two authors' unions. The Writers' Union of Israel (WUI), which has about 160 members, was created in June and will have its first formal convention in December. The Hebrew Writers Union in Israel (HWUI) is 70 years old, and has about 400 members. The WUI accuses the HWUI of racism because it specifically excludes Israeli Arabs, "although it has admitted authors who write in Yiddish," says the poet Ya'acov Besser. Mr. Besser has some 20 books to his credit, the latest being Heartist (1990), and is the editor of the literary magazine Seventy-Seven. The temporary chairman of WUI, he has been fighting for the inclusion of all Israeli authors, whatever the language they write in, for more than 20 years. "Any literature that shuts itself up in a linguistic ghetto has begun to ring its own

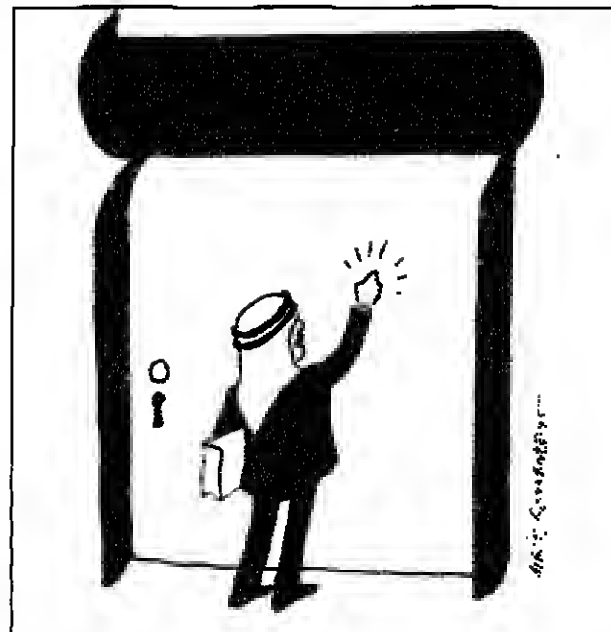
death knell," he declares. "Both language and literature influence and are influenced by their encounter with other languages." "(Modern) Hebrew is full of Arabic, American, Yiddish, even ancient Greek words and phrases. Hebrew literature itself developed thanks to other languages." He cites Maimonides and Yehuda Halevi in 12th-century Spain who both wrote Arabic as well as Hebrew, then jumps to the Luzatto family in 18th- and 19th-century Italy and from there to "Yehuda Leib Gordon in 19th-century Russia who was influenced by such as Pushkin and Lermontov. "It's deliberately misleading to say that, in order to preserve and promote Hebrew language and literature, we have to have a Hebrew-only association. HWUI is a chauvinistic body that doesn't want to sit around the same table with Arabs. "This issue nearly split the

association 22 years ago when I brought it up for the first time. 'How do you expect us to sit around a table with people who aren't Zionists,' they asked me, 'and who have no stake in the future of this country and its literature from a Zionist point of view?' Since then, Mr. Besser has worked to change hearts and minds. He was chairman of the HWUI until the Pessah assembly last year when he once again proposed a resolution to change the HWUI constitution to include non-Hebrew authors. He admits that the ongoing peace process supplied a strong additional incentive. "Of course the peace process provided us," says Israeli Arab author Salman Natur, who is on the WUI's temporary management committee. "I wasn't at that assembly, but I sent a letter. It was the same letter I'd sent in 1972, except that now I asked that the HWUI open its ranks to us in the

light of peace, the opening of borders and the meeting of cultures in the Middle East. My letter was never brought before the congress and I didn't get a reply. Mr. Besser's motion was defeated, and he resigned along with six other HWUI committee members. Asked to comment on the establishment of the WUI, HWUI chairman Or-Zion Bartana replied: "What association? There is no other association that I know of." Since the WUI is recognised as a public non-profit body, Bartana's response seemed a little extreme. But a couple of days later the response was a terse "No comment." It was left to HWUI spokesperson Lior Broshi to fill in some of the gaps. The accusation of racism is nonsense, he says, because the association "is one of the subgroups within the Israel Federation of Writers' Unions, and all the other

languages have their own associations too. "It's politics and not racism that is at work here. The HWUI reflects all of Hebrew written culture in all its uniqueness. We're not willing to give that up, so refusing to change our constitution doesn't make us racist." Eminent author A. B. Yehoshua also opposes the new union. He rejects Mr. Besser's definition of the HWUI as a ghetto, saying that there is worldwide emphasis today on specifically local cultures to counter the threat of global homogeneity. "The HWUI is a matter of cultural identity not racism," he says. "Should I relinquish that identity for peace? On the contrary, I need to strengthen it." Mr. Natur says that after 1972 there was a Palestinian Authors' Association, an Arab Authors' Union and an Arab Authors' Association. "But none of these lasted

very long or had very many members. The WUI will not only deal with professional concerns — such as contracts, royalties and such — but, because of its multi-ethnic base it will facilitate encounters with, and enrich, all our literature." According to Mr. Besser, the HWUI gets around NIS 1 million in subsidies. "And we will apply for membership in, and funding from, the Histadrut, and for funds from the Arts and Culture Authority. Our members will pay NIS 150 annually and that will help." While the HWUI has an annual publication, the WUI plans a "fat" quarterly for which, Besser declares, "we hope to get government support if it thinks an all-Israeli writers' union is important." More than 100 of the 160 WUI members are Hebrew-language authors including Haim Be'er, Yehudit Handl, Yoram Kaniuk, Irit Linur, and the poet Ilan



Schenfeld. Nearly half the rest write in Arabic and the others in Russian, Yiddish and (so far only five) in English. The December convention will elect a 19-member executive committee, only nine of whom will be Hebrew-language writers. It would benefit all local writers if the two associations were to make peace between themselves. Oslo, anyone? — The Jerusalem Post.

'Every woman is an occupied territory'

BOOK REVIEW

Women and the Israeli occupation: The politics of change
Edited by Tamar Mayer
London and New York: Routledge, 1994, 210 pages, \$16.95

Dialogue between Palestinian and Israeli women, research into the effects of occupation, and commitment to peace and feminism — these are the input which shape Women and the Israeli Occupation. This book consists of 11 essays by Palestinian, Israeli, Arab-American and Western women, plus one male contributor — the majority of whom are political activists as well as academics. Several of the essays in Women And The Israeli Occupation are stagnant, because the author is content to repeat well-known facts about the 1967 occupied territories and women, without presenting any new analysis to connect the two aspects. Moreover, a few of the contributors are influenced by Zionist bias to a degree that would seem to preclude the very peace and equality which the book purports to further. However, the rest of the book far outweighs the weak essays by presenting fresh insight and

precise analysis.

On the Israeli side, the essays of Yvonne Deutsch and Simona Sharoni stand out. Deutsch credits the intifada with being "a catalyst for the political awakening of women in Israel" (p. 89). By reversing the myth of the Israeli army as defenders, it moved women to act against the occupation and for peace. While the Gulf crisis deflated the broad Israeli peace movement, it also served to expose the link between militarism and domestic violence. Unable to join in the fighting, Israeli men sat at home, and felt helpless and frustrated. They also battered and murdered their wives at an unprecedented rate. This got wide coverage in the media, as did the case of the Israeli soldier who had shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian girl in 1989, as she was reading a book on her front porch in Gaza; in June 1991, the same man shot and killed his former girl friend, an Israeli Jew like himself.

Both writers analyse the role of Israel's "national security" concept and Zionist myths in promoting violence against Palestinian women, and obscuring Israeli women's subordination in their own society. Sexism is inevitably

bound up in such militarism. "During military training exercises, for example, the strategic targets are quite often named after significant women in the soldiers' lives: Women, like military targets, must be protected so that they will not be conquered by the 'enemy': while men must fight, occupy and protect." In this context Sharoni writes: "Every woman is an occupied territory" (p. 126).

On the Palestinian side, several essays point out how Israeli rule has intersected with the traditional patriarchal society to increase women's subordination. Nabila Espanyoli writes that: "Since Palestinian women in Israel were forced to stay at home because of military orders (in effect from 1948 until 1966) and because of restrictions placed on them by the men in their families, they were no longer able to support their families as producers, and they lost much of their previous status" (p. 110). Suha Hindiye-Mani, Afaf Ghazawneh and Subhiyyeh Idris explain why Palestinian women's work as street vendors "represents the tandem effects of both their vulnerability to the economic effects of the Israeli military occupation and their secondary status within traditional Palestinian

society" (p. 153).

Karen Assaf, in the most broad-ranging essay in the book, presents substantial data to support her claim that Palestinian women are the primary victims of the environmental disaster which has been inflicted on the West Bank and Gaza Strip by almost three decades of Israeli occupation. Similarly, Elise G. Young finds that women — "at the bottom of the gender-race-class hierarchy" — are most at risk due to the deterioration of health conditions under occupation. She argues for "A Feminist Politics of Health Care," based on the premise that all Palestinians under occupation are treated like women: "Inferior and underserving of rights" (p. 180).

In Young's view, self-determination is a prerequisite for reversing these conditions, and this requires "redefining both the nationalist struggle and health and healthcare systems from a feminist perspective" (p. 179).

By Sally Bland

Leave a light

By Jean-Claude Elias

FROM THE very first day they put their hands on the machine's keyboard and their eyes on its screen, all humans who use a personal computer (PC) — as if there were still any who do not — discover with time that the number of tasks they can use a PC for is virtually limitless.

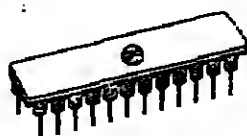
The application programme for which the computer was purchased at first may be simple word processing or home bookkeeping. With time, almost at regular intervals one would discover that the PC can do more than the main work it was originally bought for. Sending faxes, looking up telephone or fax numbers, consulting an encyclopedia, performing calculations, recording digital music, playing sophisticated electronic games, balancing a cheque book, checking appointments and other operations quickly become indispensable yet easy to process using the computer. Slowly but surely you reach a point where you wonder how you used to manage "before".

You become more and more dependent on your PC until you discover one fine day that while you badly need a piece of information stored in your PC, it is most impractical to switch it on just for that. Moreover, the new Windows system and its related programmes are heavy-weight champions — a lot of power but as much inertia to overcome too.

A small experience has shown me that starting an average machine from power off to MS-Word 6.0 ready-to-work takes as much as 80 seconds. It could be even more with slower equipment. Add the physical stress one puts on the hardware with repeated power off and on cycles, and you have a contradicting situation. Unless information is at your fingertips, it becomes practically useless. The only way therefore to make a PC useful is to leave it permanently switched on.

Are small computers designed to work without interruption for days, weeks and months? New PCs are very reliable but the wear-and-tear effect acts on them like on any other machine — almost. Some components however have a much longer MTBF (mean time between failure) than others. The MTBF is usually given by the manufac-

chip talk



turer and represents, statistically only, the time that a given machine is supposed to work before requiring repair or maintenance. Several of a PC's elements have an MTBF greater than 100,000 hours, which is more than eleven years. A computer becomes obsolete in less than that. The main processor, the hard disk, most of the chips can be left working for long periods without any risk of damage. The only item to protect from continuous work is the monitor. It needs a break every now and then. It is wise to switch it off at night for instance, leaving the main unit in operation.

Keeping a PC working continuously is not only practical when you immediately need a piece of information, it is also a must if you want to receive faxes or if you want to access it yourself from another location. Many business people, while travelling abroad, "ask" their PC at home to give them numbers and other information they can access using special remote control software. Such data when needed becomes vital and gives Information Technology all its meaning.

Those who hesitate about leaving their PC continuously "on" should not be afraid to do so. For more peace of mind they can give their dear machine additional protection by connecting it to the mains through a power conditioner or UPS (uninterruptible power supply) to avoid unpredictable, electrical disturbances that can be caused by prolonged operation. Future hardware and software will very likely be designed to serve without any interruption.

Melodies, performances and representation

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Because each society has its own definition of truth, some things are easier to explain or comment on aloud than others. And in certain situations, some thoughts and ideas have to be repeated over and over again until they settle deep in a society's collective memory. One could say, for example, that you should become terrified by the tendency of modern architecture to ignore the site and to confuse up with down. And this dejection of yours could reach its peak with the arrival of the cantilever — the bit of floor which hangs on its own.

This invention is very popular among our architects, or whoever designs our buildings these days, because it allows for the emptiness of glass walls between one floor and another that so much characterises our modern day concept of culture.

In Europe on the other hand, culture is about the pavement cafes, the liveliness of the public square, street art, movie theatres and concert halls, and spaces where people can live, work, and enjoy themselves.

Performers, by virtue of their training and gifts, attempt on the concert or opera stage exactly what most members of their audience cannot emulate or aspire to in real life. The performances we see, as members of an audience, are about re-creating and interpreting an existing work which can only gain its justification and its rightness through such an interpretation.

Echoing similar sentiments, Michel Foucault, the tantalising French philosopher, once wrote that it may well be that we belong to an age of intelligence that keeps us irremediably at a distance from an original language where we are doomed historically to history, to the patient construction of discourses

about discourses, and to the task of hearing what has already been said. And it is this representation of the past that we share with our performing friends.

But while we see the performances on the stage in a programme confined by the performance occasion itself, most good musicians have at their fingertips, or lips, or hearts, much more music than they perform in public. And it is this memory which is an important part of the gift every performer carries within.

And in our moments of despair it is this memory and knowledge which comes to our rescue.

But while an author cannot force others to see people and places the way he or she would like them to, he or she, can certainly shake them out of their callous routine every now and then. The role of the author is, in this context, to call on his readers to be imaginative. To think about what they and their forefathers had achieved in the past, and what they and their children can aspire to achieve in the future.

The past, just like music, can be reinterpreted to our advantage. And some writers and intellectuals amongst us today are claiming that the successes of the past are the most meaningful as platforms for greater successes in the future. So what it all comes down to is how each and every one of us uses his or her past to chart his or her future. We have to use the lessons of the past to correctly plan the future of our society, to safeguard our environment, to better plan our cities, to better define our culture, and to steadily determine the way of life that we would like our children to lead in the future. Sticking our head in the sand should not be an option.

AMAZING FACTS

— It is so cold in Verkhnyansk, Siberia, that boiling water poured from a kettle would be solid ice as soon as it reached the ground.



— At Battacaloe, Sri Lanka, there is a salt lake which on calm nights, especially when there is a full moon, emits clear and musical notes. The singing appears to come from the bottom of the lake and although no entirely satisfactory explanation has been given, it is believed that the culprit is a certain kind of shellfish which inhabits the lake.

— The very special prisoner spent 34 years in jail, dying there without anyone having his identity or what his crime was and still wearing his mask. But people speculated that he was in fact the twin brother of the French King, Louis XIV, imprisoned to avoid any dispute over the throne.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

MOHAMMAD A. SHUQAIR

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- ** She refused to marry him.
Rafadat an tatazawwajahu.
- ** He denied asking her hand.
Ankara talab yadaha.
- ** Both of them had been divorced.
Kilahoma kana mutallaqayn.
- ** They were rich and belong to a big family.
Kana ghaniyyayn wayantameyan ela osrah kabi-rah.
- ** She was extremely beautiful and he was horribly ugly.
Kanat jamila lilghaya wakana qabeehan jiddan.
- ** She was generous and he was stingy.
Kanat karima wakana bakhilan.
- ** She got two daughters and he had one son.
Kanat laha ibnatun wakana lahu ibn.
- ** His son married her elder daughter.
Tazawwaja ibnohu ibnatahal-kobra.
- ** The younger daughter loved a handsome man and eloped with him to a deserted island.
Ahabbat al-ibnatu-soghra rajulan wasiman waharabat ma'ahu ela jaziratan mahjurah.

JOKES

— SHE: "What did your father say when you told him you had ever slept all night thinking of me?"

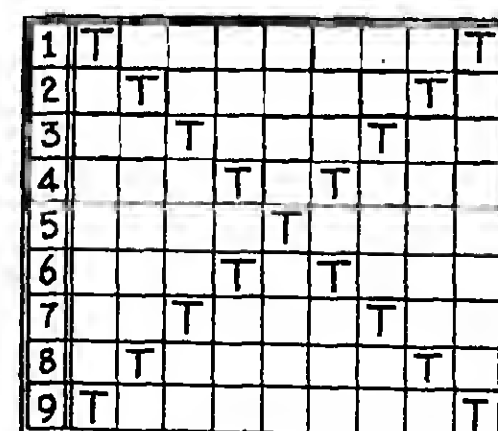
PUZZLES

In this problem words have to be inserted in each line across to fit the "T"s as shown. To make it even more of a "T"s-er" the clues give you EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE MEANING to that intended.

NOW see how long it takes you to work it out.

CLUES

1. Lack of attention
2. That which is not inherent
3. Put in
4. Disestablish
5. Dismantle
6. Well provided for
7. Advanced
8. Fertility
9. Demure female



BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The Acropolis in Athens literally means what?
2. If you were at a meeting of SALT, what would you be discussing?
3. The name "Irene" comes from Greek. What does it mean?
4. What are pelagic animals?
5. Why was 46 BC known as "The Year of Confusion"?
6. For what crime did Odipus blind himself?

Thursday, Nov. 30, 1995

- 1:00 Iris - The Happy Professor
- 1:10 Fireman Sam
- 1:25 Hurricanes
- 1:50 My Secret Identity
- 2:10 NBA
- 3:00 The New Leave It To Beaver
- 3:30 White Heat — Ep. V
- 4:30 Gillette World Sport Special
- 5:00 French Programme
Sophie Et Virginie
- 5:30 Varieties
C'est Votre View
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Carol And Company
- 8:00 The Album Show
- 8:50 The New Avengers
- 9:40 Varieties
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Movie — "The Sea Wolf"
Starring: Charles Bronson & Catherine Mary Stewart
- 12:00 The Thorn Birds

Friday, Dec. 1, 1995

- 1:00 The Little Mermaids
- 1:30 Beethoven
- 1:45 Lift-Off
- 2:00 Bush School
- 2:25 Space Rangers
- 3:15 Goldrush In Alaska
- 4:05 Movie, Games And Videos
- 5:00 French Programme
Sophie Et Virginie
- 5:30 Telefilm
Soleil D'Automne
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
Sports Et Musique
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Beyond 2000
- 8:00 Natural Wonders Of Europe
- 8:45 America's Funniest people
- 9:10 Wolf
- 10:00 News In English

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

10:25 Second Chances (Drama) Part 2
11:30 Feature — "And Then There Was Ooe"
Starring: Amy Madigan & Dennis Quaid

Saturday, Dec. 2, 1995

- 2:00 Back To The Future
- 2:30 Harry And The Hendersons
- 3:00 Blue Heelers
- 3:30 Only In Hollywood
- 4:55 The Adventures Of The Black Stallion
- 4:30 Sky Trackers
- 5:00 French Programme
Fractales
- 5:30 Magazine
Omni Sciences
- 6:00 Drama
C'est Mon Histoire
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
Fant Pas Rever
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Major Dad
- 8:00 First Flights
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Feature: "The Boy Nobody Wanted"
Starring: Ginny Moore & Jonathan Willis
- 11:50 L'histoire Secretre Du Petrole
- 12:30 My Good Friend

Sunday, Dec. 3, 1995

- 2:00 The Flintstones
- 2:25 Droopy Master Detective
- 3:00 Family Playhouse
- 3:15 Scientific Eye
- 3:40 Pugwall's Summer
- 4:00 The Adventures Of The Black Stallion
- 4:30 Sky Trackers
- 5:00 French Programme
Fractales
- 5:30 Serie
Fruits Et Legumes

- 6:00 Document
Mille Ans D Civilisation
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
Sports Et Musique
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Boogies Diner
- 8:00 Cinema, Cinema
- 8:25 The Bold & The Beautiful
- 9:10 Varieties
- 9:30 Heartbeat
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Counter Strike
- 11:15 Anastasia Ep. 1
- 12:00 My Two Wives

Monday, Dec. 4, 1995

- 2:00 Shelly Duvall's Bedtime Stories
- 2:30 Richie Rich
- 2:45 Hey Dad
- 3:05 Discover Magazine
- 4:00 The Adventures Of The Black Stallion
- 4:30 Sky Trackers
- 5:00 French Programme
Fractales
- 5:30 Serie
Madame Le Proviseur
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
Nimbus
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 McHale's Navy
- 8:00 Inventions
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Anna EP. II
- 11:15 The American Chart Show
- 12:00 New York Undercover

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1995

- 2:00 Captain Planet
- 2:30 Earth Star Voyager

- 3:15 Run The Gauntlet
- 4:00 The Adventures Of The Black Stallion
- 4:30 Sky Trackers
- 5:00 French Programme
Fractales
- 5:30 Serie
Fruits Et Legumes
- 6:00 Documentary
Savoir Plus Sante
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
Ushuaia
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 You Bet Your Life
- 8:00 The Secret Of The Treasure Islands
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 True Blue
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Feature: "Bombers"
Starring: Natalie Wood & Karl Malden
- 12:00 Never Come Back (Part III)

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 1995

- 2:00 Inspector Gadget
- 2:55 Ghost Writer
- 3:00 Tomorrow's World
- 3:30 Amazing Stories
- 4:00 The Adventures Of The Black Stallion
- 4:30 Sky Trackers
- 5:00 French Programme
Fractales
- 5:30 Jeux
Le Trophée Campus
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
Sports Et Musique
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Anything For A Laugh
- 8:00 The Nature Of Things
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Prism
- 10:45 Law And Order
- 11:30 The Silk Road
- 12:30 Second Thoughts

Waterworld revisited

Movie has more life in ancillary markets

By John Horn
The Associated Press

UNIVERSAL CITY, California — Tens of thousands of people are still pouring into a theatre to see *Waterworld* — and streaming out 20 minutes later shaking their heads in disbelief.

It's not some mass walk-out, and ticket buyers are hardly demanding their money back. In its new incarnation as a live-action stunt show at Universal Studios Hollywood, the most expensive movie ever made has been turned into a hit theme park attraction. The month-old "Waterworld — a live sea war spectacular" reportedly has pushed local Universal Studios attendance up more than 40 per cent from a year ago.

The daredevil amphitheatre show, featuring 50 impressive stunts and a fiery 40-foot (12-metre) leap into a lagoon, is performed up to 10 times a day before capacity audiences of 2,600.

"To me, it kind of says (we) were right, we believed in the film and stayed with it," says David Weitzner, MCA Recreation Service's worldwide marketing president. "The show has done very well."

The stunt show is one of several reasons why MCA's *Waterworld* should not be considered the year's biggest box-office boondoggle. The Kevin Costner futuristic thriller is performing exceptionally well overseas, grossing \$157.1 million so far — more than the Tom Hanks smash *Apollo 13*. A Jan. 23 home video release is expected to generate more than 400,000 North American videocassette sales, netting MCA another \$20 million or so. And MCA is considering adding a *Waterworld* attraction to its Universal Studios Florida Theme Park.

Amazingly, the \$175 million movie has a chance to break even when all the dollars are totalled. "I think it has a shot — I really do," says Charles Gordon, the movie's co-producer. In



Kevin Costner portrays 'The Mariner' in the movie *Waterworld*

reality, *Waterworld* will probably lose somewhere between \$50 million and \$25 million, a far cry from the catastrophe many in the media predicted.

The ancillary market popularity of *Waterworld* proves a movie should not be judged by production budget and domestic box-office returns alone. The movie's continuing success also shows why Hollywood spends so much money on top stars and elaborate action movies: Everybody prefers big names and explosions. So if you're going to fail, sometimes it's better to fail on a grand scale.

Waterworld has earned more than \$88 million at U.S. and Canadian theatres — a small fortune compared to almost every other 1995 release, a disappointment given the film's cost. MCA executives believe the flurry of news stories about the film's spiralling budget and Costner's personal life (he divorced during its making) hurt domestic ticket

sales. "There were a lot of people who made up their minds before the film opened," says Gordon. "The movie was reviewed (by the media) long before it was finished."

MCA, Costner and Gordon found the international media much more receptive to *Waterworld*. Costner made appearances around the globe promoting the film, and while some questions inevitably focused on the costs, Costner and the filmmakers were better able to talk about the movie itself, not its finances.

"It was not about the budget — it was about the film-making process," Gordon says. "It was really refreshing."

Overseas moviegoers tend to prefer action films over character pieces. The Dutch, for instance, are far more interested in *Waterworld* than *The Bridges of Madison County*, even though the latter film made nearly as much as

Waterworld in the United States. In the most recent international sales charts, *Waterworld* was the No. 2 film in Brussels, third in France, No. 4 in Holland, 10th in South Africa, fifth in Sweden and No. 2 in Taipei.

All of the publicity surrounding the film's domestic theatrical release could help the movie in video stores. Thanks to all the negative stories, most consumers at least have heard about *Waterworld*, generating critical "awareness."

If audiences came to believe *Waterworld* wasn't worth a trip to the local multiplex, they may not hesitate over a relatively cheap visit to the video rental store. (Tellingly, *Waterworld* is still playing well in discount movie theatres.)

"A lot of people may not have gone to see the movie at \$7 a ticket," says Andrew Kaizer, MCA Universal Home Video's senior vice president for sales and marketing. "But they may be ready and primed to rent it for \$1 or \$2."

Casino is latest movie to emerge from gaming capital

By Robert Macy
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Elvis and Ann-Margret swiveling across the silver screen. Flying Elvises dropping from the sky onto the glitzy strip. Robert De Niro and Sharon Stone capturing the city's sordid romance with the mob.

Hollywood loves doing Vegas.

The movie industry has long had a love affair with this city, dating back to 1946 when Roy Rogers and Dale Evans filmed *Hellorado*, and 1964 when Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret starred in *Viva Las Vegas*.

But the enchantment recently has intensified with movies such as *Casino*, *Leaving Las Vegas*, *Showgirls* and *Indecent Proposal* filming here.

Industry sources say the city's glamour, dynamic growth and seedy past provide a wealth of story ideas and unique locales.

When the producers of *Casino* arrived last year to chronicle this gaming capital's checkered history, one of the settings selected was the shuttered landmark hotel.

The once-elegant edifice was reduced to a pile of rubble on Nov. 7 in a spectacular implosion captured by — you guessed it — another movie company.

Warner Bros. filmed the blast for a project entitled *Mars Attacks*, which producer Tim Burton hopes to bring to the screen in 1997.

Casino, which opens in U.S. theatres on Nov. 22, depicts the rise and fall of the mob in Las Vegas in the 1970s, "when" organized crime played a role at several resorts.

Director Martin Scorsese used more than 120 locations in and around Las Vegas for the filming. Much was done at the Riviera Hotel-Casino.

Scorsese was captivated by the din of the casino and the realism it provided for the film.

"I'll never forget that sound," he said in a synopsis of the movie. "The energy was alive, people really winning, yelling and screaming. We couldn't tell them to be quiet in order to get some dialogue — forget it — so we have it all on the soundtrack. It's like a breathing mass of people and machines and money."

Universal Pictures crew spent 102 days filming *Casino*, more than the 80 to 90 days spent on most films here.

The crew spent more than six weeks, four nights a week, in the crowded

Riviera Casino, filming from midnight to 10 a.m., capturing the overnight crowds that jammed the flashy gambling area.

Robert Redford, Demi Moore and Woody Harrelson used a similar setting — the sprawling casino at the Las Vegas Hilton — to negotiate a partner swap in *Indecent Proposal*.

And Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise used the glitz of Caesars Palace as a backdrop for *Rain Man*.

Rick Moranis opted for downtown's glitter gulch, and thousands of tourists lined the street to watch filming of a giant tennis shoe in the family movie *Honey, I Blew Up The Kid*.

It's that type of charisma that is drawing a steady flow of film producers, according to Bob Hirsch, who has headed the state-run Nevada Motion Picture Division since its founding in 1983.

"We have a city that is beguiling and intriguing to the motion picture industry," Hirsch said. "We have things here that you can't find in Atlantic City or on an Indian reservation or a riverboat."

Hirsch said any major film is going to provide publicity for the city, which of course is the lifeblood of our very existence.

"As far as its artistic merits, I'm not an arbiter of what is good or bad for Las Vegas, nor do I serve as the state's censor," he said.

MGM-UA's *Showgirls* depicted the sensual journey of a fictional character who gyrates from stripper to showgirl star. It was a homb at the box office, and drew mixed reviews from local residents.

"They brought the script to us, but our people said we wanted nothing to do with it," said Howard Stutz, a spokesman for Bally's-Las Vegas, home of the Jubilee show, which features *Showgirls*.

Jim Seagrave, vice president of marketing and public relations at the Stardust, the locale for some of the film, said he expected the usual Hollywood stereotype of Las Vegas.

"No one suggested it was going to be a documentary," Seagrave said.

"Hollywood is prone to stereotypes." The Stardust features *Showgirls* in their Enter The Night production show.

Representatives at Bally's and the Tropicana Hotel, home of the show *Folies Bergere*, told their showgirls not to talk to the media about the movie.

Hirsch's motion picture office operates on a

Movie offers a look at city's seedy past

Casino is just the latest in long string of movies that have used Las Vegas as a theme or a backdrop. More than 70 movies have been made here, ranging back to *Las Vegas Nights* in 1941.

The Nevada Motion Picture Division has come up with a list that it considers the top 26 movies produced in Las Vegas.

Conspicuous by its absence is the recent box office flop *Showgirls*, an NC-17-rated saga of a young woman's rise from Las Vegas stripper to showgirl headliner. The movie was soundly panned by critics and members of the showgirl profession.

The top 26, in alphabetical order:

- *Amazing Colossal Man* (1957) starring Glen Langan, Cathy Downs.
- *Bugsy* (1991-92) — Warren Beatty, Annette Bening.
- *Casino* (1994-95) — Sharon Stone, Robert De Niro, Joe Pesci.
- *Diamonds Are Forever* (1971) — Sean Connery, Jill St. John.
- *Electric Horseman* (1979) — Robert Redford, Jane Fonda.
- *The Joker Is Wild* (1957) — Frank Sinatra, Mitzi Gaynor, Jeanne Crane.
- *The Godfather* (1972) — Marlon Brando, James Caan, Al Pacino, Talia Shire, Robert Duvall, Diane Keaton.
- *Hellorado* (1946) — Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, Gabby Hayes.
- *Honey, I Blew Up The Kid* (1993) — Rick Moranis.
- *Honeymoon In Vegas* (1993) — James Caan, Nicholas Cage, Sarah Jessica Parker.
- *Indecent Proposal* (1993) — Robert Redford, Demi Moore, Woody Harrelson.
- *The Las Vegas Story* (1952) — Jane Russell, Victor Mature, Vincent Price.
- *Las Vegas Nights* (1941) — Phil Regan, Bert Wheeler, Tommy Dorsey and Orchestra.
- *Lost in America* (1985) — Albert Brooks, Julie Hagerty.
- *Meet Me In Las Vegas* (1956) — Dan Dailey, Cyd Charisse, Agnes Moorehead.
- *Melvin And Howard* (1980) — Jason Robards Jr., Paul Lemat, Mary Steenbergen.
- *Midnight Run* (1988) — Robert De Niro, Charles Grodin.
- *Ocean's Eleven* (1960) — Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Joey Bishop, Peter Lawford, Angie Dickinson.
- *O God, You Devil* (1984) — George Burns, Ron Silver.
- *Prizzi's Honour* (1985) — Jack Nicholson, Kathleen Turner, Angelica Houston, Robert Loggia.
- *Rain Man* (1988) — Dustin Hoffman, Tom Cruise, Valeria Golina.
- *Rocky IV* (1985) — Sly Stallone, Burt Young, Talia Shire, Carl Weathers, Brigitte Nielsen, Dolph Lundgren.
- *Starman* (1984) — Jeff Bridges, Karen Allen.
- *Thief* (1981) — James Caan, Tuesday Weld, James Belushi, Willie Nelson.
- *Things Are Tough All Over* (1982) — Cheech Marin, Tommy Chong, Rip Taylor.
- *Viva Las Vegas* (1964) — Elvis Presley, Ann-Margret.

\$500,000 annual budget.

In the past fiscal year, movie companies spent \$83 million in Nevada on wages, goods and services, Hirsch said.

Then there's the intangible image factor.

Films produced in Las Vegas deliver the city's image around the world six ways, Hirsch said. First there's motion pictures, then pay-per-view television, videotape rental, premium cable (HBO).

Showtime), network television and finally syndication.

Hirsch said a "miniexodus" of many film professionals from southern California to Las Vegas and features such as a new 15,000-square-foot sound stage here are making filmmaking more attractive in southern Nevada.

"As long as this exodus continues, it makes Las Vegas even more attractive for making movies," he said.

Italy's Antonioni debuts new film made despite debilitating stroke

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — When the Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni suffered a stroke in 1985 that paralysed his right side and robbed his power of speech, everyone figured he would never make another film — everyone but Michelangelo Antonioni.

The recent American Film Institute's film festival opened with a tribute to Antonioni and the world premiere of his new film, *Beyond The Clouds*. Also shown was a documentary, *To Me, To Make A Film Is To Live*, shot by his wife Enrica during the filming of *Beyond The Clouds*.

Both were here for the festival, along with the film's producer, Stephanie Tchalgadjeff. One morning in a bungalow of a Westside hotel, all three talked about the new film and how a director without speech could make it.

Antonioni became one of the leaders in the flowering of Italian cinema following World War II. He achieved world-class status with such films as *L'Avventura*, *The Red Desert* and his English-language *Blow-Up*. He made one Hollywood film, *Zabriskie Point*.

His last major movie was in 1975, *The Passenger*, with Jack Nicholson. Last March,

the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences gave him an honorary award for his achievements.

Before Antonioni entered the bungalow, his wife explained the aftermath of the 1985 stroke.

"For three years, he had to understand how to change his life, how to live again," she said. "For three years, he didn't accept his new condition, and he wanted to recuperate his body and his speech and everything. His condition is much the same now, but he is better in his comprehension and his movement."

"Inside, he is much improved. And his sense of visualising is even stronger. I think that silence is very powerful for this."

His desire to re-enter the film world returned, she said. In 1990, he attended the Cannes Film Festival, where restored prints of his classics were screened. He was heartened by the reception, especially from young film enthusiasts, and started thinking of another film.

"Actually, I think he never stopped to think about cinema," Enrica Antonioni said. "He is always visualising, always thinking for a cinema, always in state of imagination."

Antonioni prepared two previously written scripts but, both times,

the financing fell through. Then he chose four short scripts from his 1983 book, *Bowling Alley On The Tiber*, which could be made on a smaller budget.

Since his illness made Antonioni difficult to insure, a backup director was needed for *Beyond The Clouds*. The noted German director Wim Wenders agreed to serve (he also directed the *Wraparound Beginning And End*).

Producer Tchalgadjeff obtained the \$9 million financing: 60 per cent from France, 20 per cent apiece from Germany and Italy.

Assembling the international cast was easy. Such stars as Marcello Mastroianni, Jeanne Moreau, John Malkovich and Jeremy Irons welcomed the chance to work with Antonioni. Filming took place entirely on location in France and Italy.

At 83, Antonioni remains strikingly handsome, with a shock of white hair and penetrating eyes.

Although he entered the hotel room leaning on the arm of his translator and walking with measured steps and could say only one or two words in reply to questions, he was eloquent in his facial expressions and left-armed gestures. Enrica, who seems to have a radar-like connection to

his mind, filled in the rest.

After the stroke, did he think he could direct again?

Absolutely, he gestured with emphasis, and his wife laughed. "I said no for three years, but I was wrong."

How could he direct without being able to speak to the actors?

Explained the producer: "He directs by going over and over a scene and showing on the (video) screen sometimes. He puts the actors in position and shows them what he wants. It takes time. This film took more weeks than if he had been able to speak."

Enrica corrected with a laugh: "I would say four weeks less." She added that Antonioni seldom took more than two or three takes for a scene, unless it was a complicated camera move.

He was asked if his Hollywood experience with *Zabriskie Point* had been pleasant. A sour face and an emphatic "no."

Will he make another film?

An immediate "si." A couple of projects have been offered, his wife said. Antonioni indicated the only issue was not his condition, which he doesn't expect to improve, but the basic problem of serious filmmakers: money.

Bergman bows out of the theatre for good

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Ingmar Bergman, Sweden's legendary director and producer, will quit the stage and screen for good next spring to dedicate himself to his writing at his Baltic island home, and a life he calls "a comfortable hell."

Thirteen years after he vowed to never make another movie — a promise he has kept — Bergman, 77, announced that next spring will see the end of his career as a theatre director, even though it is "the most important thing to me."

In a rare interview — so rare that each one risks being his last — the reclusive Swede admitted to the Swedish daily *Expressen* that he felt "incredibly relieved" after making the decision to move from Stockholm to his home on Faaroe on the island of Gotland.

"Now I am free, or soon anyway," he said. Before then, he must get through three premieres in Sweden. The first, *Yvonne, Princess of Burgundy*, written by Poland's Witold Gombrowicz, at Sweden's Royal Theatre (Dramaten).

In April, *The Bacchanals* will open at the theatre, and the play *Larmar Och Goer Sig Till* will appear on tele-



Ingmar Bergman

vision in the fall of 1996.

"Every day I long for Faaroe, the only place in the world where I feel at home," said the creator of 45 films for the big screen and five for television.

Bergman felt the need to move to Faaroe after his wife of 25 years, Ingrid, died in May, saying his "personal situation had changed so radically."

It was a "totally unexpected scenario" for an artist who had previously said that he would have to be dragged feet first out of the theatre.

He will now focus all his energy on his writing.

"Through the years I've realised that it is more and



Ingmar Bergman

more fun to write, just for the love of writing." But he has no concerns about having his work published: "I don't give a damn if it gets published or not. I can afford that."

Bergman will not be leaving the theatre without regrets. "It does feel strange to break with this theatre where I have spent thirty years," he said, adding rapidly though that "I do not consider myself irreplaceable."

Already at the age of nine, the young Bergman was an avid spectator of plays performed at the prestigious theatre where Greta Garbo made her debut in the 1920s.

And he continued to play a silent role in the theatre when he himself took to the stage to direct several generations of actors in 84 plays: "My old teacher Torsten Hammarn always said the two most important things for a director were to be quiet and listen."

His future on Faaroe, where he has kept a home for many years, will be a quiet and tranquil one. Starting his day at 4:30 a.m., his daily life will be a strict routine. "Hard and disciplined work is a good corset," he said.

And every day at three p.m., he will watch an old movie in his private cinema, continuing a long-time ritual.

He watches two films every year: Akira Kurosawa's *Rashomon* and Victor Sjostrom's *Koerkarlen*, which Bergman calls "the greatest cinematographic masterpiece ever made."

Defending himself against critics who say he is all gloom and darkness, the creator of *Cries And Whispers*, *Persona* and *Fanny And Alexander* maintains that he too can "read a fun book and take a walk." "It's a comfortable hell," he said.

New study links Aspirin, Ibuprofen to serious gastrointestinal bleeding

By Steve Sakson
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The painkiller wars are flaring again — but this time the fight is over what the drugs do to your stomach, not your head.

A study, financed by the creators of Tylenol, links its rivals in the over-the-counter analgesic market to severe and sometimes fatal bleeding in the digestive system.

The findings, announced at a scientific meeting, drew an immediate denunciation from the makers of Advil and Aspirin, who called them misleading and self-serving. Advil's makers said the real purpose is to divert attention from findings last

year linking Tylenol to liver damage.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) called the study's methods flawed and said most people who occasionally take non-prescription painkillers of all kinds, including Tylenol, have little to worry about.

However, those who take the drugs in large doses and frequently for chronic problems like arthritis should always consult their doctors first, said the FDA, repeating warnings already stated on the product labels.

"This study has some serious and important defects, yet we do pay attention to all data collected," said Dr. Michael Weintraub, the FDA official who oversees non-prescription drugs and

many painkillers. Manufacturers of over-the-counter painkillers are well-known for their aggressive marketing tactics as they vie for dominance in the \$3 billion per year domestic market. The products are also sold abroad.

Ad campaigns totalling hundreds of millions of dollars are common, sometimes followed by suits and countersuits as companies challenge each other's claims.

The latest fight was triggered at the annual meeting of the American College of Gastroenterology, the doctors who treat digestive diseases.

Doctors David Peura of the University of Virginia and Frank Lanza, a private

physician in Houston, said their study of 1,200 patients showed those who took over-the-counter painkillers known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, were nearly three times as likely to develop severe gastrointestinal bleeding.

If those patients drank alcohol, the likelihood rose to 4 times, the doctors said.

Commonly used NSAIDs include Aspirin-based drugs like Bayer Aspirin, Anacin and Excedrin; drugs like Advil, Motrin IB and Naproxen, with the active ingredient ibuprofen; and the newest painkiller, Aleve, with the active ingredient naproxen sodium.

The study was conducted this summer among 600

gastroenterologists who answered a survey about patients. Ninety per cent of the patients were hospitalized, several died and more than half required blood transfusions, said Dr. Peura.

NSAIDs have long been suspected of causing gastric bleeding and other problems when taken in their stronger prescription strengths.

The researchers said this is the first study showing a link with weaker non-prescription versions. No similar dangers were found with acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol, and the researchers said it was a better alternative.

Despite their findings, Dr. Peura and Dr. Lanza stopped short of saying the

NSAIDs actually cause bleeding — they simply said there seems to be a link. In fact, most people will probably be fine, they said.

"No one ever disputes that Aspirin and the other NSAIDs are extremely valuable drugs with numerous indications," said Dr. Peura. "I just think both the lay public and physicians in general need to recognize that sometimes they can be associated with problems."

Although the study was paid for by Tylenol's maker Johnson and Johnson, Dr. Peura insisted it was objective. Drug companies support other research by the college, he said.

Tylenol and other drug-makers also support the annual meeting itself. In

fact a full-page Tylenol ad appears in a meeting newsletter, directly opposite an article announcing the study results.

The FDA's Weintraub said the study was flawed for a number of reasons. Since the data came from doctors who volunteered to participate by mailing back a survey, the study couldn't account for any biases in those physicians. Most of the patients were already sick so might be prone to bleeding. The study also didn't account for whether patients took the right dosages, for how long, and their alcohol intake.

Advil's makers, American Home Products, released a statement pointing out that several scientific studies last

year linked Tylenol to liver and kidney damage, especially when used with alcohol, resulting in a decline in Tylenol sales.

The latest survey is "self serving and not driven by science but by the adverse publicity associated with acetaminophen," the statement said.

The Aspirin Foundation Information Service, a group funded by Aspirin makers, also condemned the study.

Consumers may get some objective findings soon on acetaminophen and NSAIDs and their safety. Mr. Weintraub said the FDA is completing a new round of research on the drugs, which it will report in coming months.

Efforts to extend life prolong dying, medical study shows

By Karen Lowe
Agence France Presse

LOS ANGELES — Efforts to extend the life of seriously ill patients often prolongs the dying, according to a study by researchers at the University of California at Los Angeles.

The largest clinical study ever conducted in the United States of some 10,000 seriously ill patients was published in the Nov. 21 issue of the Journal of American Medical Association.

Doctors do not clearly convey a patient's chances for survival while patients and the families fail to discuss their wishes soon enough, according to the \$28 million study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

"There is a significant mismatch between the health care many seriously ill and dying people want and what they get," said study investigator Dr. Neil Wenger,

assistant professor at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine.

Hospital environments with high-tech, invasive procedures are geared to preserve life for medical conditions that would have previously resulted more quickly in death, Dr. Wenger said.

"These same techniques, however, can also prolong dying and make it a painful and mechanical process. The problem is that the system often does not know when or how to stop," he said.

The study also surprised researchers because even when specially trained personnel were used to help the communication between doctors, patients and families, the outcome was no different.

That phase of the study involved 4,301 patients who suffered from late stage cancer, pulmonary disease, respiratory

congestive heart failure and chronic liver disease.

Even though those patients and their families were informed of the poor prognosis, they still pursued procedures that prolonged the patient's lives despite the accompanying pain.

"We were stunned to find that it didn't make a bit of difference," Dr. Wenger said.

"The reasons for this are ingrained in our society. Physicians are taught to save lives, that death is a failure. Patients and families have come to expect miracles."

"It's easier for everyone — professionals and patients alike — to follow the usual path of aggressive treatment, even as it becomes clear that it is not working," he added.

Dr. Wenger said that the "system has to be downsized to the palliative mode when that is what the patient would want," and that is something best deter-

mined while the patient is well enough to participate in treatment decisions.

Too often, he said, discussions about what treatment would entail and the quality of life that would result do not occur until the patient is no longer able to make the decisions.

The study found that in 47 per cent of the cases, doctors did not know whether the patients wanted cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Also, half the patients able to communicate in the last three days of life said they were in acute pain.

"Suffering while dying must be recognized as a bad outcome of the health care system," said Dr. Wenger.

The study's authors suggest establishing guidelines for caring for dying patients and encouraging physicians, patients and families to collaborate on a plan for dying.

From dung to yak bone, contraceptives go on display

By Belinda Goldsmith
Reuters

SYDNEY — If a gynaecologist recommended wearing a yak bone necklace or using a crocodile dung pessary to prevent unwanted pregnancies, be or she would be called a quack.

But to the women in ancient Egypt in 1000 BC, or even to some Nepalese women today, this does not seem so fanciful.

"We tend to think contraception started in the 1960s but in fact various forms of contraceptives have been available for centuries," said Megan Hicks, a senior curator at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, who has spent four years compiling an exhibition of contraceptives throughout the ages.

Although the pill, intra-uterine devices (IUDs) and condoms have revolutionized the battle against unwanted pregnancy, women in some countries still rely on charms and herbs for contraception, Ms. Hicks said at the opening of her exhibition.

"Just last year a Tibetan

woman in Nepal sold this yak bone necklace (on display at the exhibition) to a colleague of mine, saying wearing it would stop her having any babies and it had worked for her sister," Ms. Hicks said.

Ms. Hicks' research took her back 3,000 years to ancient Egypt when ingredients and methods for various contraceptives were recorded on papyrus scrolls.

These methods included washing out the vagina with honey and natron — a naturally occurring sodium carbonate — or inserting a plug made of crocodile dung.

A tampon made of ground acacia leaves, dates and honey applied to cotton was also popular with Cleopatra and her peers.

Women in the ancient Greek city-state of Cyrene in north Africa around 600-400 years BC relied on the sap of the plant silphium, related to the giant fennel, as a contraceptive.

"It was so successful they even exported this plant, stamping its image on their coins, and it was harvested to extinction," Ms. Hicks

said. "But it is quite probable it did work because research by pharmacologists on laboratory rodents who were given a similar plant has found their birth rate goes down," she said.

Ms. Hicks said the use of plants and herbs for contraception or to induce abortions was common throughout the world.

"But in Western European societies a lot of that knowledge got lost in the middle ages because it was oral knowledge, passed on by midwives," she said. "When men took over the medical professions a lot of that women's knowledge disappeared."

Other references to contraception were found in the ancient book of Hebrew law, the Talmud, which mentions "spongy substances" used to prevent sperm entering the uterus, and the Greek physician Soranus' work refers to pessaries.

Women in the middle ages, however, weren't so lucky.

When their husbands set off to fight in the crusades

or holy wars they were locked into metal chastity belts that not only stopped unwanted pregnancies but also unwanted advances.

Ms. Hicks said contraception was largely left to women but the first condom appeared in about 1600 to 1700, and was seen as much as a means to block venereal diseases like syphilis and gonorrhea as a contraceptive.

The first condoms were made of linen but later models were fashioned from sheep intestines, tied at the base with a ribbon.

Ms. Hicks said Casanova used condoms, referring to them as "that wonderful preventative against an accident which might lead to frightful repentance."

She said the "condom revolution" occurred in the 1850s with the vulcanization of rubber and again in the 1930s with the invention of liquid latex.

Ms. Hicks said she hoped to take the exhibition, Taking Precautions: The Story Of Contraception, throughout Australia and even overseas after a year's run in Sydney.

U.S. CDC: Purported aphrodisiacs can be deadly

ATLANTA (R) — Products sold as aphrodisiacs, often packaged with no instructions for use, warning labels, or lists of ingredients, can be lethal, U.S. Federal health officials warned.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said purported aphrodisiacs have claimed the lives of four men in New York

City in the past three years.

The products, intended to be applied to the skin, contained digoxin, a heart stimulant obtained from dried foxglove leaves, as well as steroids that have similar effects.

In two of the four cases, the men died of heart problems within 24 hours after ingesting the product, sold as a dark brown

cube and marketed under names such as "Love Stone" and "Rock Hard."

Similar products have been seized from suspected drug traffickers in Miami, New York City, Philadelphia and Tampa, Florida, as well in North Carolina and Virginia, the CDC said.

Such products usually escape federal regulation by avoiding making any

health claims as to potential benefits.

Researchers found the product in the New York cases was identical to a traditional Chinese medication called Chan Sn and contained the same type of steroids found in teas made from the oleander shrub and the foxglove plant.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

PAIRS
By Grace C. Pinkston

ACROSS

1. Staff
2. Horses
3. Endless
4. Treadle
5. White
6. Adrenal
7. Disinfectant
8. A and a whole
9. Jimmy
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11. Major and minor
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18. English
19. Official
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21. Discharges from
22. Eggs
23. Portuguese
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25. Pardon
26. Stoppers
27. Sings
28. Arise
29. Good
30. School

DOWN

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Diagramless, 19 x 19

By Frances Burton

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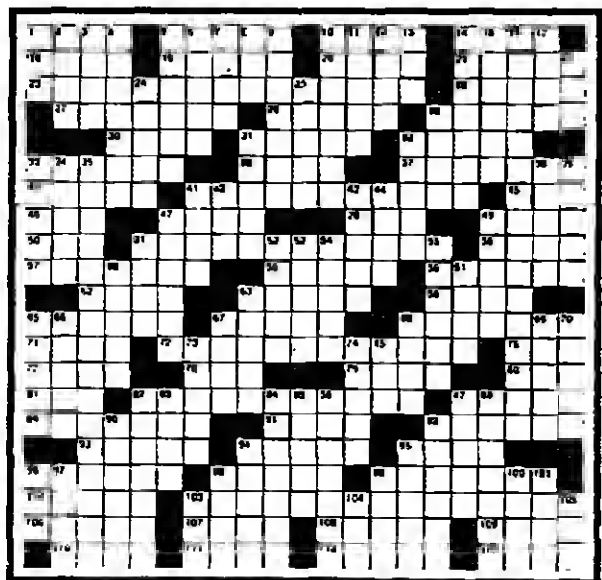
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

ACROSS

DOWN



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. There will be a brand new awards show this fall. It'll

2. Amateur fighter, downed in eighth round by mighty

3. Well-known writer had to decide whether his central

4. Pretty parents cannot eat carrots, but precocious baby

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. KAT PEEKS NATH ARTH QSRIN YVY

2. NAW AC NLI D GYZE VS JMWHAWE AC

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Should children receive ear tubes?

By Haya Kardsheh

EACH YEAR more than 600,000 children who have had repeated middle-ear infections (otitis media) undergo surgery for insertion of tiny plastic tympanostomy tubes. This helps to prevent fluid, or effusion, from re-accumulating in the middle ear. But a recent study reported that nearly one fourth of the surgeries are inappropriate. Giving a child antibiotics or letting the effusion clear up on its own may be just as effective.

"Doctors and parents want to help these children, but sometimes the best thing they could do is wait," says study author Lawrence C. Kleinman, M.D., associate director of the clinical effectiveness programme at children's hospital, in Boston.

"Most kids outgrow the condition eventually."

Other experts disagree.

"This study doesn't address the impact of the chronic temporary hearing loss that children experience, or the risk of recurring infections while waiting for the problem to resolve."

The U.S. Public Health Service has just issued clear guidelines on tympanostomy that all experts endorse: It should be performed only on children who have had effusion for three months and have experienced hearing loss in both ears.

"If a doctor recommends ear tubes for your child, ask him or her how long the fluid has been present, how severe the hearing loss is, and whether other treatment options have been exhausted." If all of these criteria have been met the tympanostomy may be the right choice.

Thought for this week

What is it to be a gentleman? The first to thank and the last to complain?

— Serbian proverb

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. (The) highest town (or city at the top). (From the Greek akro= highest, polis= city.)
2. Arms limitation (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks).
3. Peace. (Irene was the Greek goddess of peace.)
4. Animals of the open sea, far from any shore, such as the jelly-fish, the whale sharks, whales, young herring and a great variety of small crustaceans. (Living or growing at or near the surface of the oceans.)
5. The Julian Calendar was then introduced. (46 BC had 455 days. The Julian Calendar was based on a solar cycle of 365 1/4 days, but this was superseded by the Gregorian Calendar which rectified the overplus of a few minutes each year, and was adopted in England in 1752.)
6. Patricide and incest. (He murdered his father, Laius, and married his mother Jocasta.)

PUZZLES

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KNOWLEDGE

British scholar sheds new light on ancient forts in southern Jordan Valley

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGIST Kay Prag of Manchester University Museum has been conducting excavations, surveys and ethnographic research in the Wadi Kefrein region of the southern Jordan Valley for the past 10 years, since she first started her PhD thesis fieldwork in 1965. One would think that she had exhausted the known sites in the area during that time — but a brief two-week exploratory season earlier this autumn has dramatically reaffirmed two principles that continue to define the antiquities of Jordan: The richness of the country in terms of undocumented sites, and the danger that many sites continue to face from illegal excavations and tomb-robbing.

Dr. Prag's fieldwork in September and October aimed to achieve two goals: to compare 1953 aerial photographs against the existing sites on the ground in order to see how many sites from 1953 still exist today, and to study three relatively unexamined antiquities sites in the area where Wadi Kefrein enters the Jordan Valley floor.

Her assessment of sites that were identified on the 1953 photos from the Hunting Air Survey shows that most of the sites in the foothills are still there, but many sites in the alluvial area along the valley floor have disappeared, mainly because they were located in flat land that has since been heavily farmed. This suggests that a considerable number of antiquities sites in Jordan could profitably be documented by closer analysis of existing aerial photographs and thus perhaps saved for posterity by some fast rescue work and fencing off of important sites.

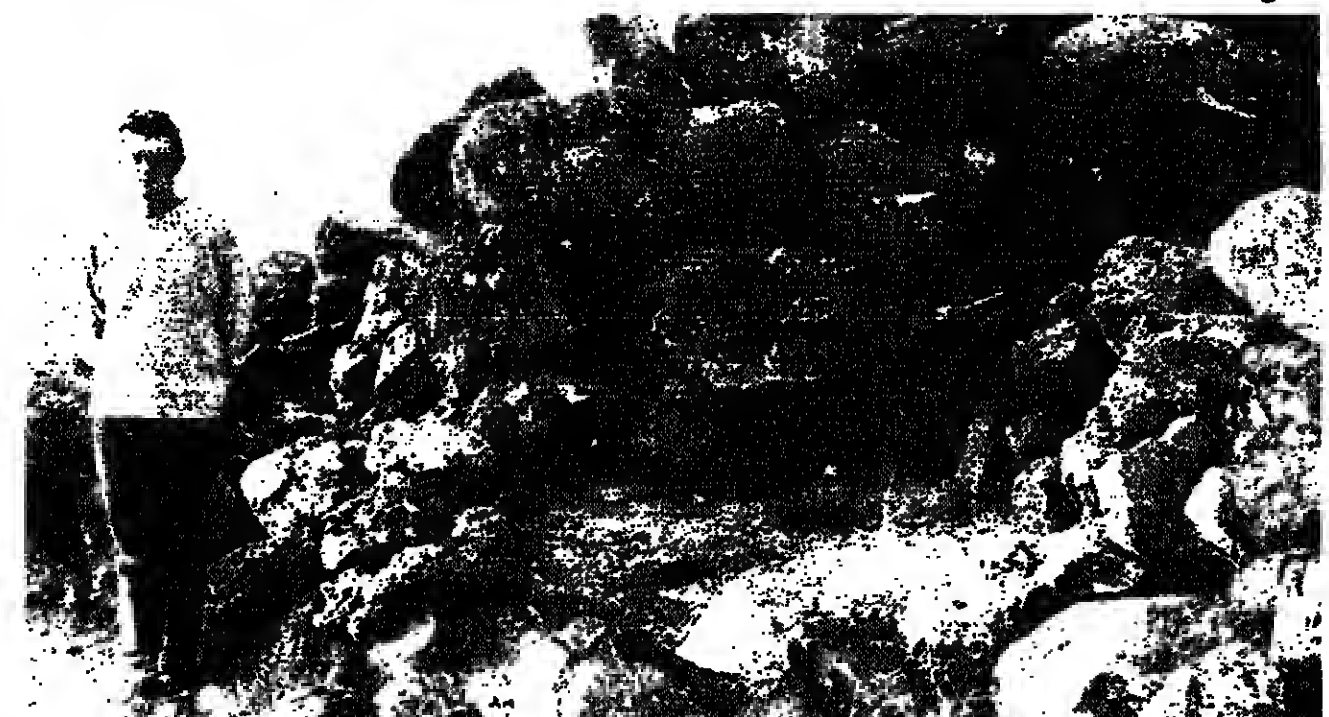
The area that she explored on foot is right around the site of Tell Hammam, just below the Wadi Kefrein Dam. From

her own visual observations during excavation seasons at Tell Hammam and near-by Tell Iktann, and from pioneering surveys done in 1933 by the French scholar Alexis Mallon, she wanted to achieve two goals: to explore the remains at three sites that were located within a few hundred metres of one another, and to try to determine what if any relationship these sites had to one another in ancient times.

The first site she explored was a "fort" that Mallon had called Tell El Hebbesa, located east of Tell Hammam, on slightly higher ground and across the modern road. Immediately east and above Hebbesa was another "fort" that Mallon had also noted, and that Dr. Prag has dubbed the "plateau fort," because of its location on an elevated plateau. The third "fort," which she first discovered in 1965, called Tell Barakat, sits on a spur of land just north of Kefrein Dam.

While studying Tell Barakat this year, Dr. Prag discovered an adjacent townsite dating from the Early Bronze Age (3300-2000 BC) and possibly the Iron Age (1200-539 BC). Her 1995 season clarified the nature of most of these sites, and generated tentative conclusions about how these sites related to one another in three ancient periods — the Early Bronze, Iron, and Roman-Byzantine eras.

Tell El Hebbesa, as Mallon correctly suggested, is a fort surrounded by a fortification wall with many built structures inside, most of which have collapsed or eroded. Many of the walls that Mallon noted in his plans in 1933 are not visible today or have disappeared due to quarrying or illicit excavation; his plans have



The Plateau Fort: The North side of the gate tower showing megalithic stones. Hugh Barnes as scale; from the north (Photo by Kay Prag)

not only proved remarkably accurate, but they are also very important for preserving information that is no longer physically available to scholars today.

The Hebbesa complex measures approximately 100x80 metres. An aqueduct led into the fort from the east, and fed at least five internal cisterns, on the lower terrace below the acropolis area. The aqueduct comprised a rock-cut channel near the fort's eastern end, measuring nearly half a metre wide and nearly a metre deep. In some places, the channel was carried over the wadi on a 2.3-metre-wide double stone-faced aqueduct supported by piers and arches. The cisterns were partly rock-cut and partly built, were nicely plastered inside, and, judging by the architectural remains, had vaulted roofs. "The size of

the channel, aqueduct and cisterns," Dr. Prag told the Jordan Times in a recent interview in Amman, "suggest a good water supply."

A small tower on the south-east corner of the acropolis has been quarried away in modern times. An important feature not visible to Mallon is the substantial retaining walls that once supported the upper citadel. Some of the fort's outer fortification walls were three metres wide and had four-metre-deep foundations, indicating their large size and considerable strength.

Why was such a strong facility with such substantial fresh water reservoirs needed in this spot? Mallon suggested the fort was Herodian in date, perhaps a sister fortress to a similar structure near Jericho on the west side of the Jordan Valley. The fort's primary

function may have been to protect the hot springs that now emerge onto the surface just west of the site. Or, this may have been one of several forts that King Herod used during his military campaigns against the Nabataeans and other indigenous tribes east of the Jordan River, Dr. Prag suggests. Her survey revealed mostly Early and Late Roman and Byzantine sherds at Tell El Hebbesa, and the layout also suggests a Byzantine period date. She believes the fort clearly played both a strategic lookout and protection role, and also guarded the adjacent hot springs.

Interestingly, this hilltop site seems to have played the same defensive/strategic role for thousands of years. Along with its Roman-Byzantine role, it was used as a military facility by the Ottoman army around

1917, and until recently was used by the Jordanian army. The adjacent Plateau Fort played the same role in the Iron Age — indicating repeated re-use of the same spot by security forces over a span of some 3000 years, from the Iron Age to the late 20th century.

The Plateau Fort just east of and above Tell El Hebbesa is a roughly square structure that measures around 50x50 metres. It shows the remains of a central building, and in its outer fortification has a double-chamber gateway that is typical of the Iron Age. Sherds collected there date mainly from the Iron Age, although a few Early Bronze Age sherds have also been found.

All three sites — Hebbesa, the Plateau Fort and Tell Hammam — are vulnerable to illegal excavations and tomb robbing, partly because of a local legend that the Ottoman army had stored money or treasures there when it evacuated the area during World War I. Immediately south of Tell El Hebbesa, a rich field of at least 20 dolmens — megalithic stone-built tombs from the Bronze and Iron Ages — has been almost totally robbed out by treasure hunters. The case for protection measures is urgent and very strong, as many sites in this area have not been thoroughly studied by scholars and known sites are being robbed on a sporadic basis.

The third site Dr. Prag explored this year is Tell Barakat, which she had noted in 1965 but never studied or mapped. It is, like Tell El Hebbesa, a fort from the Early and Late Roman and Byzantine periods, according to the surface pottery sherds she collected. It also has an outer fortification wall, probably rock-cut cisterns in a lower enclosure, and an upper acropolis measuring some 1200 square metres. Remains of other internal structures are not very visible on the surface, but probably exist below ground level.

While exploring Tell Barakat, on a large, isolated hill just to the west Dr. Prag discovered a large walled townsite from the Early Bronze Age, with a few remnants of mudbrick structures on its south side. A central depression may have been an Early Bronze Age reservoir that collected water from surface run-off. An aqueduct linked this site to Barakat, fort in the Roman period, but the origin of the townsite is clearly in the Early Bronze Age. It was also perhaps used as a

cultic site in the Iron Age, to judge from pottery remains of possible cultic function vessels. Pottery parallels indicate that this would have occurred either during the Early Bronze or the Iron periods.

The rich information derived from this brief field season suggests to Dr. Prag that various combinations of sites were used contemporaneously in several different ancient periods. Tell El Hammam, the EB-Iron Age townsite above Barakat, and the Plateau Fort all show Early Bronze and/or Iron Age use, and may have been occupied at the same time as part of defensive systems in this strategic and water-rich area. The Tell Barakat and Tell El Hebbesa forts were both used during the Early and the Late Roman-Byzantine periods, and probably served the same purpose. Dr. Prag notes that Tell Barakat fort faces south and Tell El Hebbesa fort faces north — i.e., they were in easy signalling distance, even within shouting distance. Perhaps Barakat fort controlled access up the Wadi Kefrein (which was not visible from Hebbesa), while the hill behind Barakat fort provided a strategic panoramic view towards the north-west, which was also not visible from Hebbesa.

Some evidence exists for an ancient road crossing the Wadi Kefrein at this point and then going up to the Hisban area, which suggests an additional strategic reason for the location of the Roman era forts.

Dr. Prag's work is being funded by the Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust, and is being conducted in cooperation with the Jordan Department of Antiquities and the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History. The detailed survey of the three forts was the work of Hugh Barnes of the British Institute at Amman, and the project had the assistance of Saad Hadidi of the Department of Antiquities.

Regent urges coordination

(Continued from page 1)

Prince Hassan stressed the need to develop the economic and legal environment to make it able to meet the needs of international companies and to enhance partnership with the private sector.

This stage, he said, is a valuable opportunity to turn Jordan into a centre of international studies and expertise fields such as legal and commercial arbitration and consulting in standards and certifications.

The Prince called for meetings between higher councils Jordan, such as the Higher Council for Education and the Higher Council for Science and Technology, to tackle the pressing issues.

Minister of Administrative Development Mobieddin Qasbi said the meeting with the crown Prince was intended have senior administration officials meet with high-level decision-makers on administrative work.

Dr. Toq said Jordan was in several years witnessing unprecedented activity in terms of political reform under directives by His Majesty King Hussein. He said Prince Hassan

realised, through chairing the Royal Commission on Reform and Modernisation, the importance of having a comprehensive administrative reform.

The Ministry, he said, has prepared a plan for administrative development, following guidelines set by the Royal Commission.

The minister said several of the government's departments have also started implementing a project aimed at reducing bureaucracies.

He added that the ministry had finished several plans to develop administrative work and drafted several legislations to serve that end.

Also speaking at the meeting was Director General of the Public Administration Institute Zuhair Al Kayed, who reviewed recommendations issued by directors of government departments after touring several of the Armed Forces production centres.

He said the directors recommended continued support for the Armed Forces, whether at time of war or peace.

At time of peace, the Armed Forces will have a chance to work in various fields, in which they were

active before, such as construction, serving state institutions and the production process, he said.

Mr. Kayed said any plan to develop the Armed Forces militarily should be coupled with plans to develop their production capacities and to enable the army to compete with the private sector at the local and international levels.

He said the directors called for giving production centres of the Armed Forces a separate budget and plans.

He added that they recommended establishing an Armed Forces unit to be used for maintaining equipment used by the various government departments and having the forces cooperate with the ministries of agricultural and municipalities and rural affairs in opening agricultural roads and building bridges and dams as well as helping in the afforestation process.

Major General Maarouf Bakhit of the Armed Forces General Command also reviewed possible roles for the Armed Forces in the development process, saying the army always shoulders such duties with several Jordanian institutions.

Israeli jets attack S. Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

would deter further Hizbollah guerrilla rocket attacks from Lebanon.

The fiercest Katyusha barrages in months wounded several Israelis in the Galilee on Tuesday and sent tens of thousands scurrying to bomb shelters.

"We must find the way for it not to be worth their while to fire Katyushas," Major-General Amiram Levine, Israel's military commander in the north, told Israel Radio.

"I am not sure that of all things, a strong response, or 'bang and it's over,' is the way."

Citing previous Israeli operations, including the 1982 Lebanon invasion, he said: "Nothing solved it completely."

As fears subsided following a quiet night, Israelis left the shelters, workplaces and schools reopened.

Israel Television said some 250,000 people spent the night in shelters across Israel's northern Galilee from Nahariya to Kiryat Shmona.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher spoke to leaders in Israel, Syria and Lebanon on Tuesday urging them to calm the situation following the cross-border violence.

Mr. Peres, who is also defence minister, rebuffed calls

from several ministers for an immediate large-scale operation in Lebanon, military radio said.

Mr. Peres met army leaders in his Jerusalem office to study various plans after warning Syria late Tuesday to halt the Hizbollah attacks on northern Israel, his office said.

"The army has several plans and it is up to the government to decide," Chief-of-Staff General Amnon Shabak told Israel Radio.

A senior defence ministry official Uri Lubrani summed up Israel's dilemma saying the Jewish state had to find an appropriate response without threatening the peace process.

"We have to find a way of not letting this action go unpunished, without barmen in any way the peace process which is not an easy task," said Lubrani, the coordinator for Israeli activities in Lebanon.

Mr. Christopher telephoned his Syrian counterpart Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa to urge him to put pressure on Hizbollah to stop the attacks.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said: "The Syrians have some influence over Hizbollah ... the Syrians have replied that they would do all they could to ensure that restraint is exercised."

Both Israel and Syria have signalled they are ready to resume peace negotiations which broke down in June,

and U.S. envoy Dennis Ross is making another shuttle trip to the region next week to try to kickstart the talks.

Mr. Christopher had spoken to leaders in Israel and Lebanon as well as Syria to "urge all three to do everything possible to calm the situation," Mr. Burns added.

Mr. Burns told reporters there had been recent statements by Israel's new foreign minister and Syria's foreign minister about "their intention to advance," the stalled peace process.

But he said it was too early to tell if this period after the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin might be a "turning point" in negotiations.

Mr. Burns said Mr. Christopher was so concerned about the recent rocket attacks on Israel that he called Mr. Sharaa about 4 a.m. EST (0900 GMT on) Tuesday morning.

The attacks are "clearly an effort to undermine the search for a peace in the Middle East," Mr. Burns said, adding the State Department was also in touch with the Israeli and Lebanese governments "to urge that all three do everything possible to calm the situation."

"We believe that Syria, while it does not control Hizbollah, certainly has some influence over Hizbollah ... the Syrians have replied that they would do all they could to ensure that restraint is exercised," the spokesman said.

Bangladesh likely to give army major role in polls

By Anis Ahmed
Reuters

DHAKA — Bangladesh's armed forces, which have dominated politics through 15 years of the country's 24-year history, were expected to play a major role in coming elections, political analysts and diplomats have said.

They said armed forces might not be involved directly in the political process but many of the political groups preparing to contest the polls want the army to be "indirectly active" in supervising voting.

There has been no word from the military whether they would help out, but analysts and diplomats believe the men in uniform also want democracy to take a firm root in this country.

"And that is possible only by ensuring a free election," one Asian diplomat said. "Bangladesh's army has earned an international reputation as peacekeepers. Now they might see it as a more demanding job to help end crisis at home," the diplomat said.

"They can do it without a direct intervention."

Bangladesh's independence leader and first president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed in an army coup in 1975 paving the way for General Ziaur Rahman to take power. Gen. Zia was assassinated in an abortive coup in 1981 and succeeded by General Hossain Mohammad Ershad who ruled Bangladesh until December 1990 when a popular uprising deposed him.

Speculation about army supervision arose after a telephone conversation between Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and opposition leader Sheikh Hasina on Sunday failed to resolve the crisis over the polls.

Many Bangladeshis feel a "disciplined and apparently uncorrupted force" could dispel the feud.

"Perhaps this is the answer because our politicians have failed to rise above personal considerations," said a government

official who declined to be identified.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas dissolved Bangladesh's parliament on Friday at Ms. Khaleda's request in what was seen as a first step towards ending the long-running quarrel between the opposition and Ms. Khaleda's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

But he asked Ms. Khaleda to stay until the elections, leaving the bone of contention in place.

The election is not due before March 1996 but election commission officials said it could be held before schedule.

Opposition groups led by Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League want Ms. Khaleda, whom they have accused of rigging a by-election in 1994 and of sweeping corruption, to quit office immediately.

They said they would not participate in any elections as long as Ms. Khaleda, elected in 1991 in what were billed as Bangladesh's first free polls, remains in office.

Ms. Khaleda rejected the demand as unconstitutional, and offered to step down 30 days before the election. Opponents say she must surrender power 90 days before the polls.

Sheikh Hasina told Ms. Khaleda on Sunday: "You have already taken a remarkable and praiseworthy step by asking the president to dissolve parliament. Now you can get your name written in golden letters in history by transferring power to a caretaker administration."

Ms. Khaleda replied: "I don't understand what a caretaker administration is. And I can't do anything beyond the constitution."

BNP sources said Bangladesh's constitution made no provision for a caretaker government.

Sources close to the rival camps said the idea of holding polls under the army's supervision had been supported by Western diplomats, several opposition groups and the country's business community.

"They are all concerned about staging a credible election," one analyst said.

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Violence plagues Egypt polls

(Continued from page 1)

closing of the polls, men from the NDP threw out our observers in order to stuff the ballot boxes," a supporter of Mohammad Abdul Qaddus, a Brotherhood candidate said, an accusation repeated in many constituencies.

"This is a farce. NDP people vote five times with a single voters' card and some ballot boxes were already full before the polls opened" at 8 a.m. (0600 GMT), student Magdi Soliman said.

The opposition also reported that the NDP had hused hundreds of government workers into districts in which they were not registered, to vote for its candidates during the polling's early hours.

But for voters themselves, election day meant a party, as candidates doled out food, clothes and even cash in a bid for their support.

"I've eaten the NDP's cakes, the Islamists' sand-

wiches, got a T-shirt from the (liberal) Wafd Party, and now I don't know who to vote for because really I don't care about politics," said student Murad Hussein, licking the icing off his lips.

Due to the number of candidates — an average 10 per district — many regions were expected to be decided by a second round of voting on Dec. 6 if no single hopeful received 50 per cent of Wednesday's vote.

In Cairo's Nasr City district, Yasser Mohammad Abdul Aziz, an independent candidate's supporter, toured polling stations announcing that his rival, Sports and Youth Minister Abdul Menem Emara, had died, legal sources said.

Police arrested Mr. Abdul Aziz, accusing him of "spreading false rumours to cause a public disturbance." He faces up to three years in prison.

In Wasta, 95 kilometres from Cairo, unidentified gun-

men shot candidate Mohammad Ismail before fleeing. He was taken to hospital.

A campaign worker who was refused entry to a polling station shot and seriously wounded his director in the northern Nile Delta village of Ekhnuai.

Safwat Zeidan, a canvasser for independent candidate Mohammad Ezz, tried to enter the polling station with several supporters but officials kept him out, police said.

Also in the Nile Delta, supporters of another independent set fire to a polling station and destroyed four ballot boxes before police restored order and made 16 arrests.

A policeman and two other people were injured in Faiyum, 100 kilometres south of Cairo.

In Giza, across the Nile from Cairo, independent Galal Hassuna was wounded in a dispute with supporters of the NDP. One person was shot in the arm in the capital itself.

Palestinians to run banking system in West Bank next month

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — The Palestinian Authority will take over banking supervision in the West Bank from Israel within the next three weeks, the head of the Palestinian Monetary Authority (PMA) said Tuesday.

"We have agreed with the Bank of Israel on the complete transfer of banking activity... we will within the next three weeks exercise our complete authority over what is left of the West Bank," said Fouad Bisseiso, the PMA's governor.

In an interview in Amman, Dr. Bisseiso said the PMA would have a similar supervisory role to the Bank of Israel for the 11 Jordanian and foreign banks with 34 branches in the West Bank.

The assumption of control over the area's banking business is part of the expansion of the self-rule under accords signed in September between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Israel. The PMA already supervises banks in self-ruled Jericho and Gaza.

Policy coordination with Jordan's central bank is based on a January 1995 monetary accord, which com-

mits both sides not to take any unilateral measures to undermine the dinar.

The dinar and Israeli shekel will remain for now as the legal tender in the former Israeli occupied territories.

"The issue of a Palestinian currency is being discussed not only as part of our moves to complete the prerequisites for political sovereignty but to complete the basis of a suitable monetary policy," said Dr. Bisseiso.

Bankers say nearly one third of Jordan's more than 1.12 billion dinars (\$1.58 billion) of currency in circulation are used in the West

Bank.

Dr. Bisseiso said no new banks would be given a licence unless a credit worthiness certificate was provided by their central banks, whom as the so-called "home" state would be responsible for their solvency under international banking standards.

"We will take the Bank of Israel's place as host country and Jordan's central bank will have home country status over its branches," he said.

The West Bank and the Gaza Strip areas, deprived of banking services under Israeli occupation, have seen an ex-

plosion of business activity under self-rule.

Total deposits of 12 banks and 51 branches — in Gaza and the West Bank — have hit the \$1 billion level in the first nine months of 1995 from around \$100 million when self-rule began in September 1993. There was then one Jordanian bank operating.

Dr. Bisseiso said two laws were expected to be passed soon: The PMA's own regulatory law and a new banking law once its draft was approved by the PA's council.

The PMA head, who reports directly to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, said the PMA had recently applied five rules to regulate banks in areas falling under the PA's responsibility.

The rules will demand all operating banks in the West Bank get newly licensed by the PMA and set an eight per cent capital to assets ratio and a minimum \$5 million capital base.

The rules, under which six banks with 17 branches operate in Gaza and self-rule Jericho, also sets a 14 per

cent compulsory reserve requirement for deposits in Jordanian dinar, 10 per cent for Israeli shekels and eight per cent for dollar deposits.

"We have coordinated on the dinar reserve requirement, and the moment that the PMA applies it, the Jordanian central bank will stop enforcing it on its West Bank branches," Dr. Bisseiso said.

Palestinian banks have a \$10 million minimum capital requirement, while branches of foreign banks are expected to show proof of putting aside \$5 million as capital.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't jeopardise some good relationship by acting hastily in the morning today, so keep calm, cool and collected or there could be complications.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) In trying to wiggle out of some unfortunate situation today, you could cause a good friend some distress. Find the right solution.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Steer clear of that annoying fellow associate today if you want to get your business handled wisely and properly. Attend to personal affairs later this evening.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You may be so busy at your career duties today, you fail to take advantage of a new opportunity to advance which presents itself.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study well your promises to others at this time and carry through with them instead of running off to new appeals which are fruitless.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't get so bogged down with the details of an enterprise at this time which you fail to talk over affairs with a partner.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't get so tied up with fellow associates that you fail to make your surroundings more smooth-running and attractive.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You may not be able to get your career activities completed until the afternoon today because of sudden events which will require your time earlier.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Early today get out into the world of business and forget the situation at home, but later tonight all will be right so that you will be successful.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may have obstacles connected with your home today so clear them up quickly, and tonight you can enjoy the company of close friends and loved ones.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take care you do not scold vigorously some person during the daytime today or there can be concern. Handle finances later in the evening.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take care you do not over-spend today and avoid monetary demands made upon you in the morning. This is not a day for change.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Think privately about your aims in life and how best to gain them at this time and then you will know better how to proceed.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Find out what good friends will do to assist you in gaining your aims and get good support from them so that you can be prosperous.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make sure you get business interests working more efficiently, and wisely for you to be successful. Combine your efforts with advice of bigwigs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Concentrate on expansion and use your finest judgement today for best results. Set up a fine plan early for you to be prosperous and successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can carry through with promises you have made at this time with the aid of a good family de. Budget your money more carefully.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have to have a long conversation with a headstrong fellow associate to convince him or her to accept a plan which will be profitable.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make your surroundings more charming and functional so that you can also work more efficiently in them and be more productive.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make plans for weekend amusements and be more imaginative in your career. Then later today concentrate on how best to make use of talents.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Know what the aims of those who dwell with you are at this time and assist them so you have more accord there for harmony to exist.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get every factor connected with outside routines clear in your mind this morning and then later this evening you can labour more efficiently.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Stop daydreaming and get into practical affairs today which are important at this time, and build up assets for the lean periods in your life.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Know what your inner wishes are and those you trust can help you gain them, if approached wisely. Be careful of your wallet.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon

British government puts fiscal prudence before votes

LONDON (R) — British Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke opted for fiscal prudence rather than bold vote-winning gestures in his 1996/97 budget Tuesday, announcing modest tax cuts offset by reductions in public spending.

Economists said the package was unexciting and would do little in the short term to reverse a disastrous slide in the Conservative government's popularity.

But it made an early cut in British interest rates to revive a flagging economy almost certain.

The chancellor of the exchequer trimmed the basic rate of income tax by one penny to 24 per cent and announced big spending increases in politically popular areas such as education, health and the police.

This will be offset by cuts totalling £7 billion in government running costs and other areas over the next two years.

"We have cut taxes, we are cutting taxes and, when we can afford it and when it is in the interests of the economy, we will cut taxes again," Mr. Clarke told a packed House of Commons.

"I am able to make tax cut broadly equivalent to the spending reductions, with government borrowing still falling to zero by the end of the decade," he said.

Opposition Labour leader Tony Blair, whose party leads the Conservatives by around 30 points in opinion polls, said Labour would not oppose the income tax cut, but he predicted the budget would do nothing to improve the government's fortunes.

"If this budget was supposed to relaunch the Con-

servative party, it will fail," Mr. Blair said.

Some city economists agreed with that assessment.

"In black and white terms, he hasn't delivered what the markets wanted, which was something to win the next election," said Kirit Shah, an equity strategist at First Chicago Bank.

Natwest Markets U.K. economist Geoffrey Dicks said the modest nature of the budget suggested the Conservative intended to complete their full term in office, with another budget this time next year, rather than go to the polls well ahead of the last possible date in May 1997.

"The budget was so devoid of electoral fireworks, they must be hoping for another bite at the cherry," he said.

Financial markets were concerned by the chancellor's upward revisions to his budget deficit forecasts.

The public sector borrowing requirement, as the deficit is known, is now expected to be £29 billion in the current year, up from the previous forecast of £23.6 billion.

The cut in the basic rate of income tax was the first since 1988. Other measures included a widening of income tax bands and an increase in taxes on tobacco and petrol.

Mr. Clarke, sipping from a glass of whisky, delighted drinkers by freezing duty on beer and wine and cutting tax on spirits by four per cent.

U.K. to study obstacles to M.E. investment

BARCELONA, Spain (AFP) — Britain is to carry out a study of the factors scaring away investors from the Middle East and North Africa, Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said Tuesday at the Barcelona conference.

The study will lead to an action plan for each government on how they can attract more outside investment, and a follow-up conference in London next year involving the public and private sectors.

"We will be identifying why the region is receiving such a tiny fraction of the vast investment which is going on throughout the world," Mr. Rifkind told a press conference here.

"Then we will explore how the countries concerned can change their economic policy to attract investment and how

the business community in western Europe can be made aware of and find attractive opportunities for investment in the region," he added.

Britain, with the help of the European Union (EU), will also examine why an estimated \$2 billion of the Middle East's private capital is held abroad.

He called on the EU to extend free trade to cover agricultural products, as well as industrial products and services as planned.

"I believe it is necessary for the European Union to be more generous to the industrial and particularly agricultural exports from the Mediterranean countries," he said.

Mr. Rifkind hailed the two-day Barcelona conference and its vision of a unified Mediterranean.

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THE Daily Crossword by Norma Steinberg

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- 5 Climb
- 6 Graph
- 7 Beer ingredient
- 8 Gool
- 9 Shipping centers
- 10 Gilbert & Sullivan work
- 11 "What ain't should be"
- 12 Kind of club
- 13 Stitche
- 14 Vital element
- 23 Theater section
- 25 Indisinct
- 26 Pare
- 27 Sweetheart
- 28 Vouchsafe
- 29 "— the top"
- 30 Napery
- 31 NV town
- 32 Cord
- 33 Tie
- 37 Citadel
- 39 Part of the leg
- 42 Rizy
- 43 Ride —'s mare (go on foot)
- 44 "— the very model"
- 46 Hope —
- 47 Family member
- 48 Beasts of burden
- 49 Furnish
- 50 Olie's partner
- 51 Rutine
- 52 Close-mouthed one
- 53 Actress Jackson
- 56 Ziegfeld

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

STAG MULAR JAWIS
TOBE ATONE APITA
OPULENTINOIGENT
WET LIA N NURSE
MENICANTPIRATE
AMAZE AREA ON
TIOE WOMAN PURT
CLIHARP RCTE
HEALERBAR RISTER
ERE OASIT
STENOBOOZEAVE
CHANOLERFOREMAIN
ATEROULCERLENO
MANN GLAOS KNEW

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

"My cholesterol is high, but my self-esteem is low, so they balance each other."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MOXIA
UGAVE
ROBINN
INSECK

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: FAIRY BEGUN VALISE INWARD
Answer: What the competing sandwich shops engaged in — "SUB" WARFARE

Peanuts

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE ME ANOTHER MUSIC BOX?

GIRLS LOVE MUSIC BOXES..

LOOK AT ME..I'M A MUSIC BOX! LA DUM TE DA DUM TE DA TE DUM

CLOSE YOUR LID!

Andy Capp

I WONDER IF WE'LL GET THAT EXTRA WEEK'S HOLIDAY WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR, FLOP

I'M SURE WE WILL

I WISH I WAS AN OPTIMIST LIKE YOU

WHEN YOU'RE MARRIED TO THAT LAD, RUBIE, YOU HAVE TO BE AN OPTIMIST TO OPEN YOUR EYES WHEN YOU WAKE UP OF A MORNING

Mutt'n'Jeff

I DIDN'T COME TO WORK YESTERDAY BECAUSE I WAS SICK!

SICK OF WHAT?

SICK OF WORKING!

MONDAY YOU WAS ABSENT, TUESDAY YOU WAS ABSENT, WEDNESDAY YOU WAS ABSENT, THURSDAY YOU WAS ABSENT AND TODAY YOU COME TO WORK! WHY?

IT'S PAY DAY!

Blackburn brawlers handed shock bans by UEFA

GENEVA (AFP) — Blackburn brawlers Graeme Le Saux and David Batty were handed a shock two-match ban from UEFA for "grossly unsporting conduct" on Wednesday, just two days after football's European governing body had given them a reprieve.

The dramatic change of mind came after UEFA received the Fair Play report into the fight between the two England internationals early in last week's Champions League game against Spartak Moscow in Russia.

Both the Italian referee Luigi Fairbrother and the Danish match observer ruled that the brawl did not merit further action beyond the stiff club fines the English champions gave the pair on Monday.

UEFA initially backed that view, despite urgings for action by the English Football Association.

"We will respect the referee's opinion that it is not worthy of further action," UEFA spokesman Peter Limacher had said.

But late Tuesday they were reopening their investigations because "new facts" had emerged before the disciplinary committee

slapped a two-match suspension on each of the players the following morning.

"The case has been submitted to the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Committee, which has decided to suspend the players Graeme Le Saux and David Batty from the English champions Blackburn Rovers for two matches each for grossly unsporting conduct."

The England internationals will miss next month's final Champions League game at home to Rosenborg of Norway, and the first game when Blackburn next qualify for a European campaign.

The two have already been punished by the club, though the actual level of fines, thought to be around two weeks' wages, have not been made public.

"The news has come as a bit of a shock to the club," said Blackburn chairman Robert Coar.

"All the statements we had seen attributed to UEFA in the media said they were not going to take any further actions and that the club's internal disciplinary actions would stand.

Aussie gymnastics inquiry dismisses abuse charges

CANBERRA (R) — An Australian inquiry cleared the country's top sports body of widespread physical abuse of young female gymnasts on Wednesday, but found some allegations of mistreatment were true.

The inquiry into allega-

tions of physical abuse at the government's Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) found all but a handful of the accusations could not be validated.

"No systematic or widespread abuse of AIS female gymnasts has been found to

occur at any time," said the report.

"Almost all allegations of abuse investigated by the inquiry... have not been proven and the media reports of April and May 1995 must be regarded as greatly misleading," it said.

Hawks overcome Knicks in overtime

NEW YORK (R) — Craig Ehlo made two key steals in overtime and Steve Smith scored 25 points as the Atlanta Hawks defeated the New York Knicks 102-97 Tuesday.

Atlanta scored the first four points of overtime as Smith made a jumper and Ehlo had a steal and layup to give Atlanta a 99-95 lead.

After Patrick Ewing made a jumper to pull the Knicks within two, Ehlo made a steal off an inbound pass and Smith made one of two free throws for a 100-97 lead.

Ehlo made two free throws for the final margin.

"They picked my man, so I switched out to Patrick," Ehlo said. "The pass was a little floater and I figured I was a little quicker than Patrick."

Ewing scored 35 points and Charles Oakley added 18 for New York, which managed only two points in overtime.

The loss snapped a five-game winning streak.

Six players scored in double figures for Atlanta, which led by seven points midway through the fourth quarter, 90-83 before New York went on a 9-0 run to lead 92-90 on Hubert Davis's three-pointer with 2:50 remaining.

New York forced overtime when Ewing made two free throws with 53 seconds left.

Anthony Mason finished with 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Knicks, playing 52 minutes. Mason has sat for only 24 minutes in his last nine games.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon had a season-high 30 points and 19 rebounds as the Rockets snapped a two-game losing streak with a 116-103 win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Clyde Drexler added 22 points and 11 rebounds.

Brian Williams had 18 points to lead the Clippers, who have lost four of their last five.

In Seattle, Mark Jackson's free throw with seven-seconds of a second remaining capped a 13-5 run as the Indiana Pacers came back to defeat the SuperSonics 102-101, snapping a two-game losing streak.

Reggie Miller scored 28 points and Ricky Pierce and Dale Davis each added 14 for Indiana.

Gary Payton scored 24 points and Shawn Kemp added 17 for Seattle, which had its three-game winning streak snapped.

In Miami, Alonzo Mourning scored a season-high 38 points and had 10 rebounds as the Heat handed the Dallas Mavericks their sixth straight loss, 111-89.

Kevin Willis had 12 points and 10 rebounds as the Heat posted their fourth straight home victory.

Jamal Mashburn scored 24 points for the Mavericks.

In Milwaukee, Khalid Reeves scored 19 points off the bench and Glen Rice had 18 as the Charlotte Hornets defeated the Bucks 106-98 to win their third straight game.

Larry Johnson added 17 points and seven assists.

China launches 12-team NBA

BEIJING (AFP) — Beijing Ducks, Army Rockets, Zhijiang Squirrels, and Guangdong Tigers are not tasty Chinese morsels but just a few of the teams on their starting blocks for the China National Basketball League (CNBL), which kicks off its first professional season on December 10.

After an eight-team trial run last season, the Chinese Basketball Association and seven foreign sponsors decided to set up a full 12-team championship, according to Wednesday's China Daily.

The CNBL, modelled on the US National Basketball Association (NBA), will have a 132-match regular season and a 22-game playoff. The 17 matches, running to April 7, will be played Wednesdays and Sundays, the paper said.

Bnt millions of viewers in 53 countries in Asia, India and the Middle East can also enjoy the delights of duck-squirrel standoffs via a weekly match on Prime Sport, Star TV's sports channel, and on Trans World Sport.

Greg Anthony had 23 points and Kenny Gattison added 20 for Vancouver.

In Cleveland, Terrell Brandon scored 15 of his 25 points in the second half as the Cavaliers rallied for a 93-89 victory over the Toronto Raptors.

NBA RESULTS			
Cleveland	93	Toronto	98
Miami	111	Dallas	89
New Jersey	89	Washington	84
Atlanta	102	New York	97 (OT)
Charlotte	106	Milwaukee	98
Minnesota	121	Vancouver	96
Houston	116	LA Clippers	103
Indiana	102	Seattle	101
Sacramento	91	Denver	85

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- * JD 2000 (JD SEVEN) LAMANG ANG BARAYARAN, AT BANK RATE PA ANG TATANGGAPIN NG BENEFICIARY AT WALA PANG EXTRA GHARES KAHIT SAAN MANG DAKO NG PILIPINAS
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GOREN BRIDGE

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

AAQ QK876 Q54 AKJ3

The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
10 Pass 2A Pass
20 Pass 7
What do you bid now?

A - You are on the verge of a jump shift, and no heart bid now will do your hand full justice. The solution is to bid two spades, regardless of your methods. That is absolutely forcing and should partner make some bid to indicate a hand that is better than minimum, start probing for slam.

Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

AAK7 572 QK105 AKR105

The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
10 Pass 2A Pass 2A
Pass 2A Pass 7
What do you bid now?

A - You have a very good hand, but you have to treat it gingerly — partner could hold nothing of value. Since a jump to four clubs would be pass three no trump — possibly your only makable game — bid three clubs and hope that partner, with a heart stopper, will act.

Q. 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

AJ3 QQ63 QQT53 AKJ52

The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1A Pass INT Pass
3A Pass INT Pass
4C
What do you bid now?

What action do you take?

A - North's bidding shows a good six-card or longer spade suit and only four hearts. Under the circumstances, not to correct to four spades would be a gross dereliction of duty.

Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AJ109875 QJ103 QK8 AK5

The bidding has proceeded:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1A Pass 2A Pass 2A
Pass 2A Pass 7
What do you bid now?

A - (If you deem your hand to be a minimum, think again! Your wealth of controls, intermediate cards and distribution make this hand worth some 16-17 points. Since partner surely has some high spades, we would go straight to six spades. At worst, that should be on a finesse.

Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

What action do you take?

The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1A Pass 10 Pass
2NT Pass 7
What do you bid now?

A - This is simply a matter of arithmetic. Depending on methods, partner has a minimum of 18 or 19 points, and you have 15. That's enough for a small slam, no more. Bid six no trump.

Q. 8 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

AKQJ5 57 QJ10652 AK76

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?

A - Normally, when the opponents open the bidding in your best suit, it is wisest to pass and let them struggle. Here, however, we suggest that, despite having only four cards in the suit, you overcall one spade. That makes it more difficult for your left-hand opponent to enter the auction with a heart bid.



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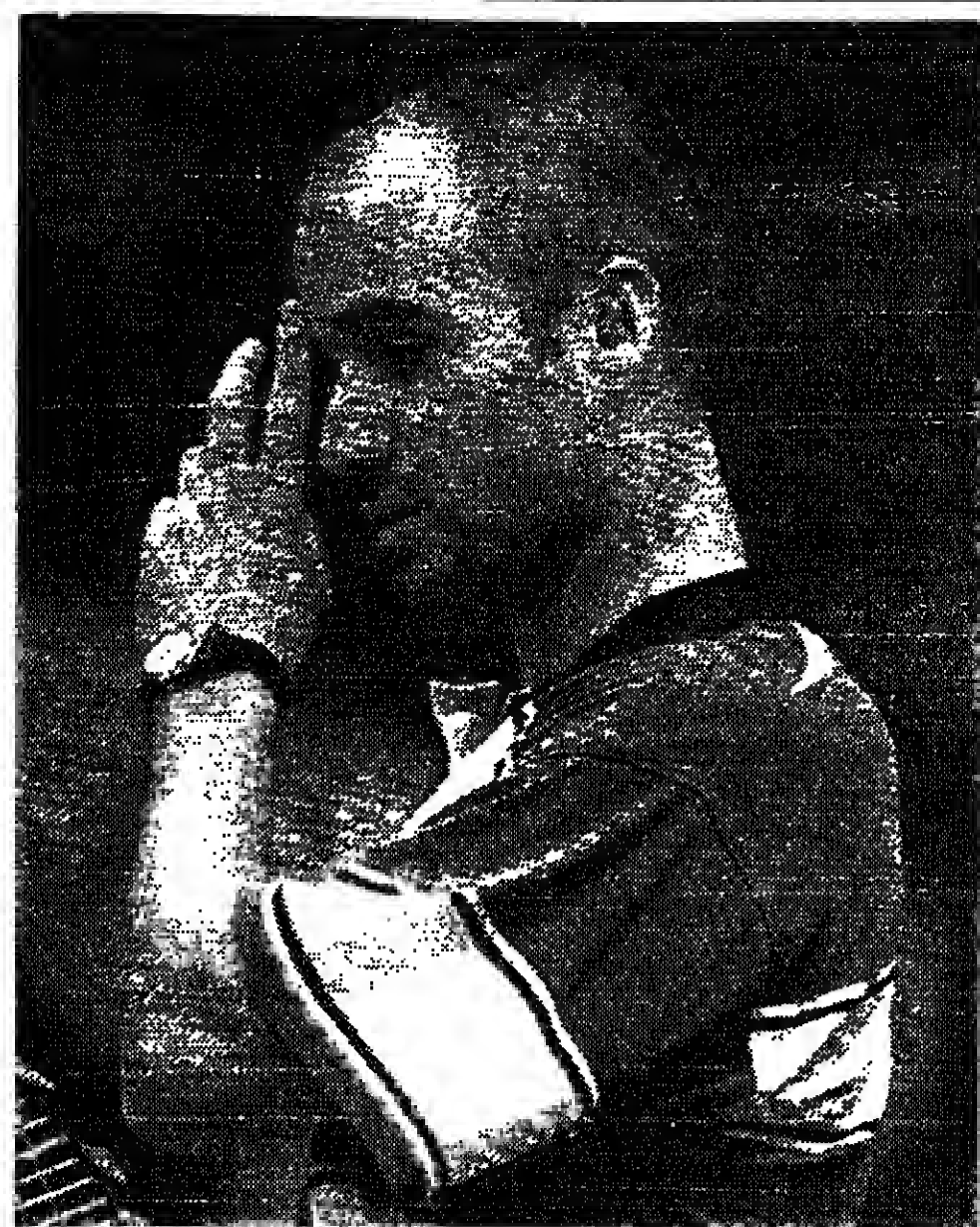
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	PHILADELPHIA Kevin Costner in WATERWORLD Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	PLAZA Nadia Al Jundi, Farouq Fishawi and Mahmoud Hamideh in A Woman Who shook the Throne of Egypt (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD CONCORD "1" Nadia Al Jundi, Farouq Fishawi and Mahmoud Hamideh ... in A Woman Who shook the Throne of Egypt Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Sylvester Stallone... in ASSASSINS Shows: 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:15	MUSA HIJAZIN "Sumaa" in Hi Citizen daily at 8:30 p.m. Written & directed by Mohammad Shawaqfeh	In view of the travel of the actors abroad the theatre is closed until further notice

Sports



Andre Agassi

Agassi to miss Davis Cup final

MOSCOW (AFP) — A chest injury has forced Andre Agassi out of the United States Davis Cup final team against Russia at the Olympiad Sports Complex here this weekend.

U.S. team captain Tom Gullikson said on Tuesday that he spoke on the telephone with Perry Rogers, Agassi's agent on Monday and was told the world number two has not fully recovered the injury he suffered in the Davis Cup semifinal against Sweden in September.

"Andre has played very little since the U.S. Open and

probably he isn't physically ready to play," said Gullikson.

He will be replaced in the U.S. squad by doubles specialist Richey Reneberg, ranked 57th in the world.

Agassi's absence will be a major setback for the United States. A few weeks ago, it looked like a walkover to some observers with the top two players in the world on the same team.

But world number one Pete Sampras is not particularly strong on clay and without the Las Vegas, the Americans suddenly seem vulnerable.

Jim Courier, who recently

dropped from seventh to eighth in the ATP rankings, will take Agassi's place in the singles rubber, along with Sampras.

"Jim knew when he got here that he would have to play singles," said Gullikson. "I don't think we're losing much, if anything, with the No. 1 and 8 guys playing singles, and Jim is one of the best clay court players there is."

The Russian team is expected to stick with Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Chesnokov in singles, and team Kafelnikov with Andrei Olkhovsky for the doubles.

Ajax flight takes off again for Amsterdam

TOKYO (R) — Newly-crowned world club soccer champions Ajax Amsterdam left for home for the second time on Wednesday after their original flight from Tokyo was refused permission to overfly Russia, an airport spokesman said.

He told Reuters the chartered KLM plane intended to retrace its original flight path to Amsterdam after winning permission to fly over Russia.

Russian authorities had denied the plane permission to enter their airspace, forcing it to circle while the problems were sorted out.

"By the time permission was finally granted, the aircraft had consumed so much fuel that it had to return to Narita (Tokyo) for refueling," a KLM spokesman in Tokyo told Reuters.

"It was all a misunderstanding" over flight numbers, KLM spokesman Hans Leijte said in Amsterdam.

KLM does not operate a scheduled Tokyo-Amsterdam flight on Wednesdays and this extra flight had a four-digit number instead of the normal three.

"The mix-up has been sorted out," Leijte said.

Dmitry Polkanov at the Russian centre of air traffic told Reuters in Moscow the plane was refused permission to overfly Russian airspace because one of his controllers had information about flight KLM 8623.

He said KLM had apologised for not announcing the charter flight properly in advance.

The end result was that a day after winning the World Club title in Tokyo by beating Gremio of Brazil on penalties, the Ajax team came crashing back to earth with a wearying journey that still had many hours to go before they reached home.

The debacle forced Amsterdam to postpone its massive homecoming street party for Ajax, for which preparations were well underway on Wednesday morning.

World swimming federation gets tough on drugs

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Swimming's governing body announced drastic new punishment for doping offenders on Tuesday, agreeing to impose automatic four-year bans on swimmers found to have used anabolic steroids, delegates and officials said.

An extraordinary congress of FINA, the international swimming federation, also agreed on two-year bans for swimmers found to have used other drugs, apart from lighter drugs such as an excess of caffeine which will carry only a three-month ban.

The four-year ban for testing positive for anabolic steroids doubles the previous maximum suspension.

Retroactive bars were also introduced and swimmers found to have used anabolic steroids will be stripped of all medals and records achieved in the previous 12 months.

But the congress stopped short of introducing sanctions against federations whose swimmers fail dope tests, postponing a decision to a meeting next year before the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The decision was delayed after the 34 federations with voting powers voted 17-17 after some members argued that it was impossible for them to control all their swimmers closely.

The problem of doping in swimming was dramatically highlighted at the Asian Games in Hiroshima in October 1994 when seven Chinese swimmers, including two women's world champions, tested positive.

The four-year ban, which must include an Olympic Games, went further than the original proposal which was simply to turn the old two-year maximum ban into a two-year minimum ban for first time offenders.

The new proposal was made by John Devitt, who won the 100 metres freestyle gold medal at the 1960 Olympics and is now a member of the Australian delegation.

The Australians had led the push for tougher sanctions and were happy with the outcome.

"This is a giant step forward and it's long overdue,"



An aerial view of the swimming pools on Copacabana Beach, which were built for the Second World Swimming Short-Course Championships which begins today (Reuters photo)

ward and it's long overdue," Australia's national team coach Don Talbot told Reuters. "The most important thing is that everybody wanted to do something. FINA are to be congratulated."

The congress refused to discuss individual cases such as that of U.S. distance swimmer Jessica Foschi, a 15-year-old who tested positive in August but received only a two-year probation and no ban from U.S. authorities.

FINA was meeting ahead of the World Short-Course Swimming Championships, which begin on Thursday in a pool specially built on Copacabana Beach.

China, who have seen 19 of their swimmers test positive for drugs in the past five years, were barred from this year's Pan-Pacific Swimming Championships in Atlanta when the competition's charter nations — the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan — voted 3-1 to exclude them.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Italy may allow 11 foreigners per team

ROME (AFP) — Italian football clubs could soon be allowed to field a fully team of 11 foreigners, instead of the current of three, following a parliamentary vote here on Tuesday. The Italian Senate voted to accept an amendment from Northern League senator Francesco Sperone allowing 11 foreigners — provided the foreign country is another member of the European Union. The amendment designed to end current restrictions on professional sportsmen and women, would be added to EU legislation currently being debated here.

Rideout lost until New Year

LONDON (R) — Everton striker Paul Rideout looks likely to be sidelined until the New Year following a collision of heads with Sheffield Wednesday defender Des Walker during Saturday's Premier League match at Goodison Park. Rideout received 32 stitches in his lip, lost two teeth, damaged the roots of several others and sustained a cracked palate, lacerations and bruising to his gums in the collision during the 2-2 draw. Rideout's absence leaves manager Joe Royle short of striking options with Duncan Ferguson still suspended, although Nigerian international Daniel Amokachi scored the equaliser after replacing Rideout.

Elbow surgery for Schmeichel

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel flew back to Denmark on Tuesday for an operation on an inflamed right elbow. The giant Dane is likely to be out for two weeks, missing the games against Chelsea and Sheffield Wednesday, after surgery to correct the inflammation which has troubled him in recent weeks.

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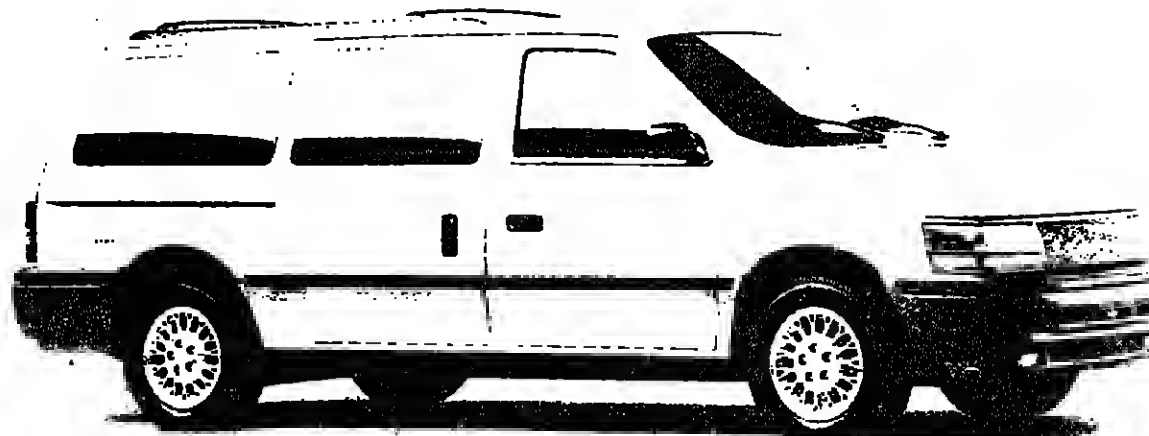
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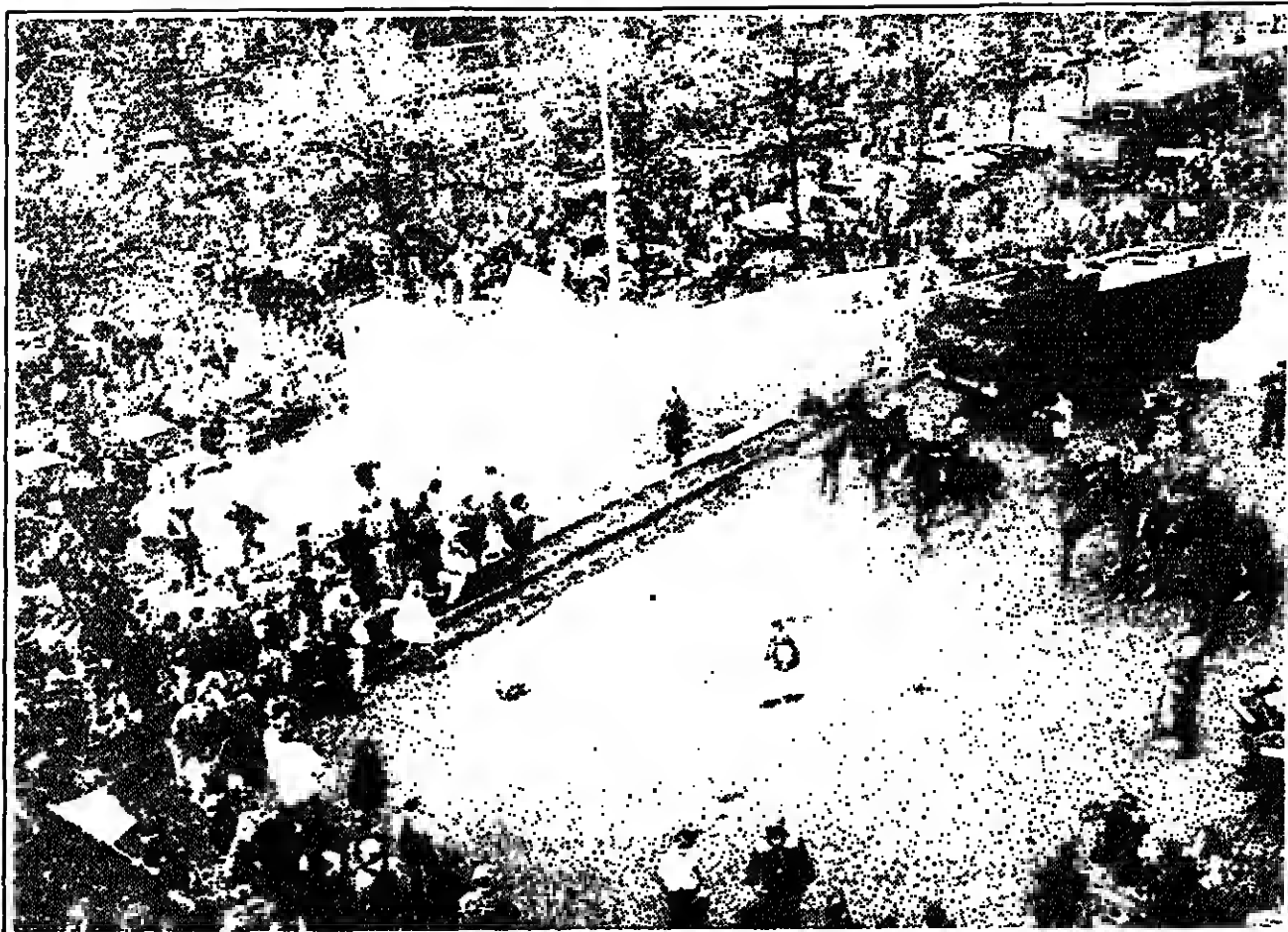
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CROWD CONTROL: Belgian security forces use water cannons against more than 5,000 student protesters in the centre of Liege against the government of the French-speaking community after it announced austerity measures in the education sector (AFP photo)

Algeria meets FIS demand by closing down desert jail

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria's Interior Ministry announced Wednesday the closure of the last special prison for militants in the southern Sahara region and release of all prisoners there.

This shutdown was one of the main demands of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and its allies.

Algeria's main Islamic opposition boycotted the Nov. 16 presidential elections, but since then some party leaders have made tentative overtures towards the military-backed government.

But hopes that those elections had brought to an end Algeria's spiral of bloody violence and civil unrest were dashed on Monday after the assassination of an Algerian army general believed to be close to the president.

"The Interior Ministry ... signed a decree on the shutdown of the security centre of Ain M'guel, in the wilaya (region) of Tamanrasset," a short statement said, adding that all prisoners were set free.

Some 700 prisoners were being held at Ain M'guel centre, more than 1,200 kilometres south of Algiers. The announcement came 48 hours after newly elected President Liamine Zeroual was sworn in and made his first address to the nation, in which he called for "national reconciliation" and vowed to continue the fight against terrorism.

Authorities set up seven detention centres after a state of emergency was declared in February 1992, followed a month later by the banning of the FIS.

More than 10,000 Islamic activists had been rounded up in these centres. Some had been freed, others put on trial.

A total of 17,000 people, or half Algeria's prison population, are being held on suspected involvement in terrorism, Justice Minister Mohammad Adami said three days ago. Several hundred have been given the death sentence.

Defence and military officials said "many" Taliban had been taken prisoners, while scores of others had been killed, but no casualty figures or independent confirmation were immediately available.

The first objective of the counter-offensive was to seize the fortified Pul-e-Charkhi jail from the Islamic warriors who captured it last week, turning it into a target for government bombs, artillery and rocket barrages, commanders said.

The Taliban-occupied prison had posed a threat to the nearby strategic village of the same name, which lies along the main eastern road artery leading from embattled Kabul towards Pakistan.

The jail fell late Tuesday when its 100 occupants were either killed or fled, opening the way for Rabbani's troops to advance into the remainder of the Taliban-controlled area, military commanders said.

"We have driven the enemy right out of the territory they took from us and have pushed them into the next province of Logar," General Taj Mohammad, who commanded the government counter-offensive said.

They then repulsed the militants from all villages and posts the Taliban had held between the prison and the village of Chakari, they added.

Corpses believed to be those of Taliban fighters were still strewn around the battered and scarred prison Wednesday, along with the warriors' black turbans, uniforms, broken machineguns and blankets.

"This time they will not be able to come back here —

Lebanon and Israel in water diplomacy

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon and Israel had their first close diplomatic encounter for years over a glass of water at the Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona, an Nahar newspaper reported Wednesday.

It happened when Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Boutrekh reached out for his glass of water and found that his Jordanian counterpart, Abdul Karim Kabariti, had taken it by mistake.

Mr. Kabariti fixed his mistake by quickly reaching for Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak's glass of water and handed it to Mr. Boutrekh who took a few sips and said sarcastically: "It tastes somewhat better."

Mr. Barak thanked Mr. Kabariti in a note for "setting up the first water cooperation between Lebanon and Israel."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan to set up formal ties with Armenia

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers on Wednesday announced Jordan's decision to establish diplomatic ties with Armenia at non-resident ambassadorial level. A cabinet announcement said that Jordan's ambassador to Uzbekistan will serve as the Kingdom's non-resident ambassador to Armenia. The cabinet also approved recommendations by development council to boost the communications sector in order to encourage investment in this field so as to cater to the requirements of the country's socio-economic development. Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Saraiyah said the cabinet approved his ministry's recommendation for issuing a new licence to a company to set up, operate and manage a mobile telephone network, to be operational by the end of 1998. He said that the cabinet also approved a plan to increase the number of public telephones in Jordan especially in areas where very few telephone exchanges exist.

Qatar air denies plans for air links with Israel

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar Air on Wednesday denied reports that it plans to start regular flights between Doha and Tel Aviv, the official news agency QNA reported. "Such press reports are totally unfounded," said the company's executive president Sheikh Hamad bin Jaber Al Thani. "Qatar air has no intention of starting up an air link with Tel Aviv." The director of Israeli civil aviation, Menachem Sharon, said on Nov. 20 that the two countries had reached an "understanding" in talks in Qatar for two charter flights a week between Doha and Tel Aviv. But the deal had not yet been signed because of outstanding "technical problems," he said on his return from two days of talks in Doha with Qatari aviation officials. Although the two countries do not have diplomatic ties, Israel is negotiating with Qatar to open a commercial office in Doha. Last month, the Jewish state signed a letter of intent with U.S. company Enron to buy Qatar gas.

Iran welcomes 'end of the genocide' in Bosnia

ZAGREB (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Wednesday said Tehran was happy to see the end of the "genocide" of fellow Muslims in Bosnia, despite its reservations over the U.S.-brokered peace deal. "We are happy to see that this genocide in this part of the world has finally ended," Mr. Velayati told reporters after a meeting with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. Iran will provide aid to help Bosnia and Croatia reconstruct their countries, Mr. Velayati said. Iran has been one of the major aid donors to the mainly-Muslim government in Sarajevo.

Algerians rescue Gulf princes in desert

PARIS (R) — Algeria's airforce rescued some princes from the United Arab Emirates who got lost in the Malian desert, near the Algerian border, the Algerian news Agency APs reported. It said about 10 people driving across Mali's deserts got lost and sent a distress signal to the Malian authorities. As Mali did not have rescue forces to hand, neighbouring Algeria sent army Hercules planes which located the drivers and provided them with medicine and other materials that allowed them to reach Bamako, the Malian capital, APs added. Further details of the incident were not immediately available.

Iraq offered 'important evidence' it destroyed weapons, Ekeus reports

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq has submitted "important evidence" it destroyed biological weapons banned since the 1991 Gulf war, but experts must still determine how significant it is, U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus said Wednesday.

"I'm glad to say that during my visit some important evidence of destruction has been handed over to me," Mr. Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), told reporters asking about the status of biological weapons.

"It looks as if it will help us," Mr. Ekeus said.

But he did not "know exactly" the value of the evidence contained in two documents until it is studied at U.N. headquarters in New York. "We don't know (yet) whether these are real things,"

Mr. Ekeus has accused Baghdad of hiding part of its programme for weapons of mass destruction as well as of resuming imports of equipment to make missiles but without informing U.N. experts.

"Iraq has declared twice that they have destroyed all these (biological) weapons a month following the Gulf war. We have no proof for that," he added.

Mr. Ekeus later left for UNSCOM field offices in Bahrain after holding three days of talks here with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, Oil Minister Amer

Rasheed, and Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf.

Mr. Ekeus arrived in the Iraqi capital on Monday saying he would discuss "all files" — nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons as well as ballistic missiles — on his latest mission.

Mr. Ekeus is preparing his December report to the U.N. Security Council, which decides whether to maintain economic sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

"It's impossible today to describe the character of the report," he said.

At its regular review earlier this month, the Security Council maintained sanctions after Mr. Ekeus issued a report in October accusing Baghdad of hiding information.

Mr. Ekeus also said he doubted whether the U.N. Security Council would modify the terms of an offer to Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil.

"My feeling is it is not possible... the Security Council accepts change," Mr. Ekeus told Reuters, referring to the limited oil sales resolution.

Iraq has so far rejected Resolution 986 allowing limited oil sales on the grounds that it encroaches upon its sovereignty.

Mr. Ekeus rejected as untrue reports that Iraq had given him an ultimatum to finish his work by a certain time.

"It is quite irresponsible to put an ultimatum. It could

create a very serious situation," he said.

Mr. Sahaf told AFP on Sunday that Iraq would cooperate with UNSCOM but urged Mr. Ekeus to set a quick deadline for his team to finish its work and recommend a lifting of sanctions.

Mr. Ekeus said Tuesday: "There will be no question of any time limit."

The UNSCOM chairman said he made an unprecedented tour of Gulf Arab states last week partly to raise funds for the disarmament efforts and to brief Iraq's neighbours on its hidden weapons activities.

Iraq's belated admission that it had produced biological agents and loaded them on to almost 200 missiles and warheads sent "shock waves" throughout the world and cast doubt about its future intentions, he said.

"It created concern about how can the neighbours and the international community be sure that these terrible weapons will not be used and not stored in Iraq," he said.

"Throughout my recent visit in the Gulf, I have outlined to the members the ways and means we are applying in preventing such threats," he said.

Under U.N. resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war to free Kuwait, Iraq must destroy its nuclear biological and chemical weapons and ballistic missiles and hand over all details about them before the oil embargo can be lifted.

Papandreou critical, is put on life support

ATHENS (AFP) — Greece's Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, who has played a leading role on the national political scene for three decades, was in critical condition on Wednesday, hospital sources said.

The Onassis cardiology centre where the 76-year-old premier was admitted nine days ago said in a morning bulletin that Mr. Papandreou had been placed on dialysis after his condition "deteriorated Tuesday evening."

He was breathing with the help of a respirator but his brain and heart were functioning "well," the statement added.

His condition has sparked anxious speculation not only about his political successor — whom he has thus far refused to name — but about how Greece would respond to the void his sudden absence would inevitably create.

At the hospital, where Mr. Papandreou was admitted Nov. 29 suffering from pneumonia, a stream of journalists and political figures paced the seventh floor awaiting news of the prime minister's condition.

Nearly all the 169 deputies of the Pasok socialist party he founded 21 years ago have filed by his hospital bed along with various opposition figures and other politicians as the country worries about a possible succession.

"I am ready to give him all of my organs as long as he lives," said one of the many Pasok supporters crowded in the lobby. Said another

teary-eyed elderly man: "I don't want him to leave before me."

The acting premier, Interior Minister Akis Tsolatzopoulos, on Wednesday held talks with the ministers of economy, finance, law and order, environment and the prime minister's office, official sources said.

The sources said the informal meeting of part of the cabinet touched on a draft budget and education problems.

Mr. Tsolatzopoulos, who is viewed as a prime candidate to take over from Mr. Papandreou, insists a successor should not be chosen without the prime minister's participation.

But Mr. Papandreou opponents within Pasok, such as former minister Costas Simitis and former European Commissioner Vasso Papatheodorou (no relation), have already met to discuss options if the prime minister's health deteriorates further.

The two were the first to ask Mr. Papandreou, even before he became ill, to designate a successor, but the prime minister simply responded, "the time has not come."

Born Feb. 5, 1919 on the island of Chios, Mr. Papandreou was attracted to Trotskyism as a student during the 1936-1940 dictatorship of Ioannis Metaxas Papandreou before fleeing to the United States in 1939 for a period of self-imposed exile.

He became an American citizen and served in the U.S.



Andreas Papandreou

Navy during World War II, and then went on to a brilliant academic career as a professor of economics at Harvard and the University of California at Berkeley.

In the 1960s he returned to Greece and entered politics when his father George, a prominent centrist, was elected prime minister in 1964. The new premier offered his son a ministerial post.

But just three years later Greek democracy was snuffed out in a right-wing military coup that imposed a dictatorship on the country — backed by the United States — for the next seven years.

As leader of the left-wing in his father's centrist union movement, Mr. Papandreou was briefly sent to prison, and kept in solitary confinement for eight months.

When the junta finally collapsed in 1974 Mr. Papandreou returned to Greece, then led by the veteran right-wing figure Konstantinos Karamanlis, and founded the Panhellenic Socialist Movement, or Pasok.

9 killed in Somali clan war

MOGADISHU (AFP) — At least nine people were killed and 17 others wounded in fierce fighting between two sub-clans in southern Somalia, reports reaching here said on Wednesday.

The fighting between the Hawiye clan's Gal'el and Shikhal sub-clans has been going on intermittently since early November in the Jilib district on southern Somalia's Lower Jubba region, but intensified early on Tuesday.

As a result, Jilib town, which lies 340 kilometres (212 miles) south of Mogadishu, was recaptured on Tuesday by the Shikhal clansmen who were dislodged from the town two weeks ago.

Reports from the area said the root cause of the fighting was a long-standing political dispute between the two Hawiye sub-clans, which turned violent two weeks ago when four Shikhal and two Gal'els were killed

Islamic penal code adopted by Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament has adopted a new penal code based on Islamic laws calling for whipping, imprisonment and capital punishment for an array of offences, officials said Wednesday.

The new code containing 31 chapters and 257 articles seeks to provide a legal framework to Islamic laws, or Sharia, which have been arbitrarily practised in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

It envisages the death penalty for any violent act against the state's security and attempted attacks against the country's leaders. Anyone "offending" the founder of the Islamic republic, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and his successor Ayatollah Ali Khamenei could also receive the death sentence.

The new law bans any gathering of two or more held here or abroad to plot against the state's security, and anyone caught violating the ban

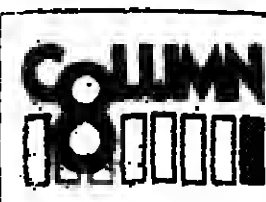
could be sentenced to up to six years in prison. Those engaging in acts of propaganda against the Islamic regime in Iran could face up to one year in jail.

The new law, whose constitutionality has yet to be approved by the supervisory Council of Guardians, calls for up to two months in jail or 74 lashes of the whip for women who fail to observe the Islamic dress code.

Convicted pimps and prostitutes, however, would escape jail and would be whipped and fined instead. Men who divorce their wives and refuse to pay alimony and child support could be sentenced to up to five months in jail.

In accordance with the Sharia, an act of adultery witnessed by at least four people is punishable by stoning to death.

A man catching his wife by surprise during a sexual act with a stranger is allowed to kill her with impunity.



Juppe wishes Chirac many happy returns

PARIS (AFP) — President Jacques Chirac celebrated his 63rd birthday Wednesday — and his embattled Prime Minister Alain Juppe was the first to wish him many happy returns. Mr. Juppe, facing massive social unrest as he tries to implement an austerity programme set by Mr. Chirac in a bid to revive France's ailing economy, wished him happy birthday at a meeting of the French cabinet, Elysee sources said.

3 scientists awarded U.N. environment prize

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Three scientists from the United States, Britain and Sri Lanka were named Tuesday as the winners of the 1995 United Nations Environment Programme Sasakawa Environment Prize. Peter Raven of the United States, Norman Myers of Britain and Canaganayagan Suriyakumaran of Sri Lanka will share the \$200,000 prize for their "outstanding contributions to the protection and management of the environment." Mr. Raven and Mr. Myers were honoured for decades of joint research on tropical forests and biological diversity, and for pushing governments and international agencies to address the problem of species becoming extinct. Mr. Suriyakumaran, chairman of the Centre for Regional Development Studies in Sri Lanka, is considered a pioneer in shaping responses to environmental challenges, and in developing economic models to show costs and benefits of environmental programmes.

Zhirinovskiy rails against foreign food

MOSCOW (AP) — Ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, campaigning this week in Siberia, says his favourite foods are — not surprisingly — Russian, Russian, Russian. Top on Mr. Zhirinovskiy's list are dark Russian rye bread and kefir, a thick sour drink made from cow's milk that is usually served by the glass and has the consistency of yogurt. The leader of the Liberal Democratic Party likes to round out his meals with meatless shchi, or cabbage soup, and kasha, or oatmeal porridge. The ITAR-TASS news agency reported Wednesday. Speaking with journalists in Kemerovo, a coal mining city about 3,000 kilometres east of Moscow, Mr. Zhirinovskiy said he was tired of all the banquets and receptions he has to attend and fed up with much of the food, especially those dishes with foreign flames.

Woman gives birth to son, two more babies await

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — When Delvonda Boldin's triplets celebrate birthdays in the coming years, the party could go on for weeks. Boldin, 24, delivered a baby boy last Thursday after she went into premature labour. His two siblings — one is definitely a girl — are still waiting to make their appearance. "I guess the little guy just couldn't wait," Mrs. Boldin said of her son, Kenard Antonio Boldin, who weighed in at 595 grams and was in critical but stable condition. Doctors gave Mrs. Boldin drugs to halt the labour and hope to extend her pregnancy for at least six more weeks so the two babies remaining in her womb have more time to grow.